

Oursler's 'Big Beach Builds' are prime time

DOOLEY SHOOTS FOR 'BIG BOY' BASKETBALL

Campus and research news, faculty and alumni interviews and more

EAST

THE ECU MAGAZINE



FALL
2018

Vai Pirati!

ECU IS IN TUSCANY





ECU
BRODY SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE

Kenneth L. Lowery II
Medical Student

Dr. Susan Schmidt, associate dean for student affairs at the Brody School of Medicine, puts a coat on first-year medical student Kenneth Lowery II of Winston-Salem during the school's annual white coat ceremony Aug. 3.



On the Cover: Alanah Miller of Four Oaks, a junior majoring in speech and hearing sciences, poses with PeeDee atop the City Hall tower in San Gimignano, Italy. It's one of 14 surviving medieval towers of the original 72 that circled the town.



Marnie Oursler '01 played shortstop on the ECU softball team. Now, she wears a hard hat while building dream homes on the Delaware coast. Read about her starting on page 28.

EAST

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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



Letter from the Chancellor

Hallmarks of a great university

If you think you've been seeing more about East Carolina University in your local newspapers, you're right.

In July of last year, we began a statewide advertising campaign that consisted of a series of full-page ads that appeared more than 100 times in nine of the state's largest newspapers – from Asheville to Wilmington. The ads supported student recruitment, alumni relations and opinion leader engagement. Estimates are these ads received more than 21 million impressions.

During the 11 months the ads appeared, I heard from many who told me they didn't know our university, our faculty and our students were doing so much great work. Here are some examples the ads highlighted:

- Our Brody School of Medicine, which is among the nation's best at educating family medicine physicians and leads the state in the percentage of graduates who practice primary care in North Carolina
- The community service-learning centers of our School of Dental Medicine, where patients from nearly all the state's counties have received vital care they otherwise might not have gotten
- Our College of Business, which serves more business students than any other state institution while offering a special track to produce entrepreneurs
- Our national recognition as a top university for military and veteran students and their families

If results matter, then our university's accomplishments in these areas and so many others show ECU is a place of not only state but also national excellence. But newspaper ads go only so far. The greatest ambassadors for ECU's message are you – our alumni, friends and supporters. So don't wait for someone to ask about that university east of 95. Take the initiative of a Pirate and show what ECU is all about.

Go Pirates!

Cecil P. Staton, D. Phil.
Chancellor

Welcome back!

Before they headed to their first day of class Aug. 20, ECU students learned about Pirate Nation traditions, were reminded of the importance of going to class and had some fun at the annual student convocation, Pirate Palooza and Raid the Rec events.

During her keynote address at student convocation, Stephanie Lee '08 encouraged students to challenge themselves during their college career. In the decade since she graduated, Lee has worked as a field organizer for a presidential campaign, on the staff of former First Lady Michelle Obama and is now a product developer for MAC Cosmetics.



Keynote speaker
Stephanie Lee '08
addresses students at
Student Convocation
on Aug. 19.

“Here is where you can start exploring your true self,” said Lee. “You can explore what makes us human and how we’re all the same. And that sameness is how we’re all connected to each other.”

Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs, put in a plug for keeping up with schoolwork.

“We want you to enjoy your collegiate experience in every way,” she said. “But it all starts with going to class and making the most of your academic endeavors.”



Following convocation, students gathered at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the 18th annual **Pirate Palooza**. They had the opportunity to participate in fun activities and receive a T-shirt and/or a drawstring bag. Free food was provided by Aramark Catering Services as well as a Taste of Greenville, featuring local eateries.



On the first morning of classes Aug. 20, Chancellor Cecil Staton handed out coffee and cookies to students.



Campus Recreation & Wellness presented the second annual **Raid the Rec** at the Student Recreation Center on Aug. 17. Activities included glow-in-the-dark miniature golf, a competitive inflatable obstacle course, an indoor roller rink, a punching meter and bubble sumo wrestling.

Cross-campus team awarded \$1.25 million for special education study



From left, students Elisabeth Jones (special education), Amanda Fabritius (special education), Jazmin Alston (school psychology) and Whitney Briggs (speech-language pathology) participate in the CONVEY summer institute in June at ECU.

Breaking down the silos of public and higher education for the benefit of learners with disabilities and high intensity needs is the mission behind a new East Carolina University graduate project involving multiple colleges.

Project CONVEY (Collaborating to Overcome Needs by improving the Voice of Exceptional Youth) is funded by a \$1.25 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. It involves faculty from the ECU College of Education Department of Special Education, Foundations and Research, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Psychology, and the College of Allied Health Sciences Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

"Our goal is to prepare graduate students to be K-12 professionals working with learners with disabilities within their specialties ... but also be prepared to collaborate across disciplines," said Sandra Warren, a professor in the College of Education Department of Special Education, Foundations and Research and principal investigator.

Project CONVEY will support four groups during the five-year span of the grant. Each group will consist of 12 graduate students — six from special education, three from psychology and three from speech-language pathology.

Funding from Project CONVEY covers full in-state tuition for each scholar and provides unique training

and development opportunities in addition to their graduate coursework. In return, each student must work in public schools with students with disabilities for two years for every one year of support.

Geographically, the graduates can work anywhere in the United States or overseas through the U.S. Department of Defense, provided it is in a public school setting.

Marianna Walker, associate professor in the College of Allied Health Sciences Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and co-principal investigator, said the hope is to attract more of these professionals to public schools.

"Convincing (speech-language pathologists) to work in schools is important, so I'm hoping this will be a catalyst to get not only the CONVEY scholars to think about it, but maybe also encourage other students who are not even in the program," Walker said. "The focus of this project is to create a unified and collaborative team of special educators, school psychologists, and speech-language pathologists to work with children that have high-intensity needs."

The first students met during a summer institute on ECU's Health Sciences Campus in June.

"We are training our students to work with students with high-intensity needs, so a lot of these children have severe communication disorders and are not speaking at all or need assistance in speaking," Walker said. "We need to provide them with a method of communication."

– Cole Dittmer

ECU to establish School of Rural Public Health

► ECU's public health department will grow into a new School of Rural Public Health in August 2020, after plans were approved by the University of North Carolina System in May.

The new school will combine departments and centers already in existence at ECU – public health, health education and promotion, biostatistics, health services and information management and the Center for Health Disparities. These departments are in the Brody School of Medicine, the College of Allied Health Sciences and the College of Health and Human Performance.

Ronny Bell, professor and chair of Brody's Department of Public Health, said the rural focus of the new school aligns with ECU's Rural Prosperity Initiative and creates a niche for the university.

"This gives us the opportunity to set ourselves apart from the rest of the programs in the nation, but also align ourselves with the mission of the school," Bell said. "There has to be a public health workforce that is responsive to the unique issues here in eastern North Carolina, and we feel like ECU is the ideal place to train those individuals."

The seeds for the new School of Rural Public Health were planted during the late 1990s when planning groups looked at the public health landscape in the state to decide if it made sense for ECU to have its own public health school.



Stephanie Pitts, an associate professor in the ECU Department of Public Health talks with convenience store owner David Rizik about the healthy food choices available in his store in rural Pitt County.

While the consensus was there was a strong need for a public health presence at ECU, plans for the school could not move forward at that time because ECU had not yet met certain prerequisites, such as a Department of Public Health, a master of public health degree and doctoral studies in two different concentrations – all of which have since been implemented.

ECU's first four doctoral students in public health started last spring with a concentration in health policy, administration and leadership and another concentration in environmental and occupational health.

During the 2016-2017 school year, ECU granted 46 percent of the UNC system's public health baccalaureate degrees and 29 percent of the master's degrees in the field. University officials anticipate the new school will have an enrollment of approximately 1,800 students when it opens, based on current enrollment and projected growth.

– Rob Spahr



Stadium expansion hits milestone

From left, ECU football coach Scottie Montgomery, ECU board chair Kieran Shanahan, trustees Max Joyner Jr. and Kel Normann and trustee Bob Plybon sign the final beam July 12 during the "topping out" ceremony for construction at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Catherine Staton is in the background. The first phase of the \$60 million project, the renovation of the first floor of the Ward Sports Medicine Building, was scheduled to open Aug. 1. A video of the renovated football locker room is at bit.ly/2vLKEG4.

Boating safety focus of ECU-designed app

A new smartphone app called SOBOS — Self-reported On-water Boat Operator Survey — is aimed at changing the face of boating safety by putting data collection in the hands of boaters themselves. Future updates could, in return, provide boaters with real-time information and guidance in a way that has never been seen before.

The SOBOS app collects user-reported information about recreational boating practices and habits in order to provide more accurate data about how people use their boats.

Ernie Marshburn, a professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment and director of the Center for Recreational Boating Research, said most forms of transportation have been studied heavily for the last century or more. But when it comes to research on marine transportation, there's little literature to be found before 1980.

To add to the problem, most of the literature that is available is based on information and statistics compiled by the U.S. Coast Guard about boating accidents. It doesn't include information about normal boating behavior for the sake of comparison.

"It's like going into a prison and trying to understand normal behavior," Marshburn said, in that the dataset is inherently skewed. "It seemed to me, if that's all you're looking at, is you're chasing the bad actors on the water, and that's all you're doing."

That accident information is important, as it helps agencies such as the Coast Guard decide where to deploy resources. But Marshburn felt the data would be more useful statistically if it could be normalized.

"To do that, all you'd have to do is collect non-accident-based boating information that's comparable to their accident statistics, and then you compare the two," he said. "So you're looking at accidents and non-accidents. And that's the basis of SOBOS."

SOBOS takes a crowdsourcing approach to collecting information about how people use their boats. Boaters who wish to participate simply download the app, take a short survey and then use the app to track future boat trips. The app records the date and time, latitude and longitude, speed, and course heading.

"This applies to any boating community, whether it's human-powered or engine-powered," Marshburn said. "It's powerboats, sailboats, kayaks, canoes and Jet Skis."

He emphasizes participation is voluntary, and the information collected — the survey and the trip data — is anonymous.

A variety of commercial, governmental and university partners are involved in the effort, including the National Safe Boating Council, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Power Squadrons, National Marine Manufacturers Association and U.S. Sailing. Marshburn said one important use for the new information about boat usage is for updating rules and regulations.

Once there is enough data to support it, future updates of the app could provide tools to help boaters operate more safely. Modern electronics such as chartplotters, he said, provide a lot of information but no way to determine what is and isn't important in a given situation. The SOBOS app could include real-time reports of waterway congestion and hazards such as floating debris, or even a one-touch SOS function.

The SOBOS app is available for Android and iOS. For more information or to download, visit www.sobos.org.

— Jules Norwood

ECU professor Ernie Marshburn has developed a new approach to boating safety using an app on boaters' phones.



Students design, build custom boards

► Camille Young's four cousins will receive skateboards as Christmas presents – all made by her in a summer session class in the School of Art and Design.

Young also made skateboards for her roommates, her mother, brother and herself – 11 total.

"They are standard street deck style unique to each of them," she said. "I wanted to make them as unique as possible and put as much time and effort into it so it looks really good."

Young still needed to attach wheels for the boards already completed and was waiting on wood to arrive for the others. She matched her friends and family interests, ranging from a yellow and black Hufflepuff Harry Potter-themed board to a marbled green one that will be painted with a varsity letter and mascot for Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, where her mom teaches. Her mother plans to hang it in her classroom.

Young, an art major concentrating in photography and journalism, prefers roller skates but will try riding her skateboard. "I don't really skateboard," she said. "I'm really clumsy."

Instructor Judd Snapp has taught 14 students over the five-week course how to cut, glue, seal and finish boards made from Canadian rock maple. Seven layers of veneer were glued together and pressed for each deck.

"Because the wood is so thin, it will take a bend," Snapp said. "We put the glue between the layers and press against a form."

The students had to work quickly to apply glue and layer the pieces in about 10 minutes before placing them in a vacuum bag for four to five hours. The end result is a rectangular piece of wood, leaving students to decide the shape of their board.



"We have some pretty crazy ones," Snapp said. "Those boards are more sculptural. I'm not sure how functional it will be."

One of the ornate boards was made by Christy Vang of Morganton, who painted ice crystals, a lotus flower and a woman's face and scale or feather-like upper torso in muted blues and purples, all freehand. "I like to personalize my art," she said. "I don't know how to ride, but I'm going to ride it."

Grant Chatham of Statesville is one of the experienced skaters in the class and also comes from a family of woodworkers. He has completed projects in ECU's wood shop since his freshman year. He's making three commissioned boards and a fourth for himself.

He picked up skateboarding once he got to college because it's easier than dealing with a bike, he said.

"I mainly longboard," said Chatham, a graphic design major. "It's my main transportation to and from class. I like the freedom and I can get into smaller spaces with more agility."

For Snapp, he enjoys teaching the students how to make something they can use. "It's a utilitarian thing. We're giving them the idea that if they want something, they can make it and they don't have to buy it," he said.

This is the third year that the School of Art and Design has offered a hands-on course giving students the opportunity to explore the intersection of art, craft, tradition and function, said director Kate Bukoski. Students previously made canoes and paddleboards.

– Crystal Baity

Above left, ECU senior Christy Vang and instructor Judd Snapp glue layers of veneer that will eventually become a skateboard. Above right, Camille Young sands the edge of a skateboard she made in a summer session 1 art class at ECU.

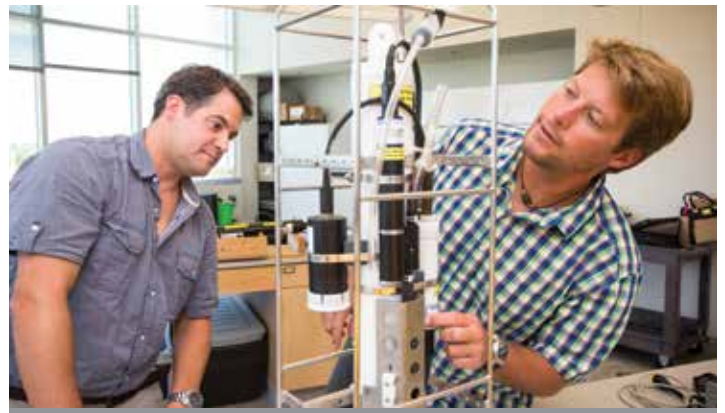
Corbett named Coastal Studies Institute director

Reide Corbett is the new dean of integrated coastal programs and director of the Coastal Studies Institute.

Corbett, a professor in the geology department and a faculty member since 2000, has served as head of CSI's Coastal Processes Program since 2012. He has also served as chair of ECU's Coastal Strategic Planning Committee, tasked with developing a comprehensive strategic plan for the university's involvement in coastal research, instruction and outreach, including economic development, over the next decade.

"ECU's focus on its coastal enterprise, including resources at the Coastal Studies Institute, shows its continued commitment to the East," Corbett said. "This commitment truly resonates with me, having grown up along our coast and having studied this system for the last two decades."

His research focuses on sedimentary and geochemical processes in coastal environments, the discharge of groundwater into the coastal zone, and coastal hazards and resilience. He was one of



ECU geology professors J.P. Walsh, left, and Reide Corbett work with an instrument in a lab at the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute. In August, Corbett was named dean of integrated coastal programs and director of the CSI.

the founding faculty in ECU's Coastal Resources Management doctoral program.

Nancy White, the founding executive director of the Coastal Studies Institute, stepped down from the role in 2017.

ECU is the administrative home of the CSI, which is in Wanchese on Roanoke Island.

— Jules Norwood



Team places third in NASA rover meet

Evan Diener, Tanner Guin, Jameson Morris (standing from left) and **Morgan Watkins** and **Andrew Grena** (seated) of the College of Engineering and Technology placed third in the 2018 Human Exploration Rover Challenge, held in April in Huntsville, Alabama. According to a NASA news release, the competition challenged high school and college teams to design, build and test human-powered roving vehicles inspired by the Apollo lunar missions and future exploration missions to the moon, Mars and beyond. This year's competition challenged teams to complete 14 obstacles and five tasks throughout a half-mile course, with a six-minute supply of "virtual" oxygen. ECU's team was the only one to complete the entire course. The team's participation in the competition was made possible by the North Carolina Space Grant.

Alumni association now dues-free

► All ECU graduates are now considered full members of the ECU Alumni Association regardless of whether they've paid membership dues.

ECU has joined a growing list of public institutions that have moved away from dues-based alumni associations, according to the university. ECU has more than 170,000 alumni.

"The new model enhances engagement by removing the barriers to participation," said Heath Bowman, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations. "Being more inclusive makes us a better resource for alumni and a more helpful partner to the university."

Under the new funding model, the association will rely on annual philanthropic support instead of membership dues.

More information is at piratealumni.com.
– ECU News Services

Fall enrollment nears 29,000

Jaalen Best moved into College Hill Suites on Aug. 14, hoping to avoid the rush of ECU move-in traffic before starting a new job at the campus recreation center.

"I'm glad I did it early," he said.

The junior exercise physiology major from Clinton was the first in his suite, having hauled in all the necessities for a new school year.

Best was among approximately 5,400 students who moved into residence halls over a four-day period. The fall semester began Aug. 20, and by census day Aug. 30, a total of 28,718 students were enrolled.

Saiid Powers of Lumberton immediately connected to ECU. "When I came to campus, it felt like home," he said. "It was far enough away to say I'm gone, but not too far."

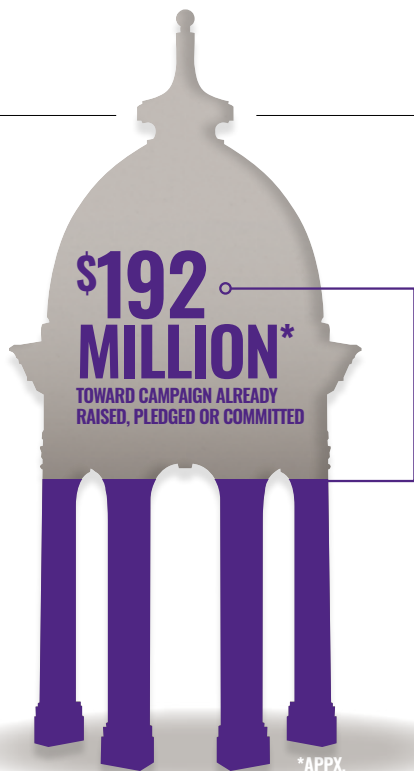
After several years of record-setting freshman classes, total enrollment this year is slightly smaller than last year, said John Fletcher, ECU's associate provost of enrollment services. The decrease can be attributed to increased competition from in-state and out-of-state universities for students and a higher graduation rate, he said.

Out of the 28,718 ECU students, approximately 4,200 are freshmen and 1,750 are transfer students.

– Crystal Baity



Saiid Powers



Funding the future

ECU continues to make progress on its comprehensive fundraising campaign. So far, \$192 million has been raised, and the total continues to rise daily.

Strong giving to ECU's Main Campus helped the university raise \$43.3 million in fiscal year 2018. That included 33 endowments established by the ECU Foundation and 17 endowments established by the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation.

In March, ECU's second annual day of giving, Pirate Nation Gives, helped the university raise more than \$500,000 in 24 hours, far surpassing last year's \$273,663.

Each gift ECU receives brings the university one step closer to transforming its campus and providing the foundation to cultivate scholars and revolutionize research. Each gift is a commitment to improving the university, the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

Study shows climate change may hinder fish conservation efforts

► For more than 20 years, conservationists in the Caribbean have been working to protect the endangered Nassau grouper. Thanks to those efforts, populations of this critical reef fish have stabilized in some areas.

However, in a new paper by researchers from ECU and the University of Texas at Austin, marine scientists show climate change may severely hinder these conservation efforts by the end of this century.

By 2100, breeding habitats are projected to decline by 82 percent from 2000 levels if nothing is done to mitigate climate change, according to the report published in the July issue of the journal *Diversity and Distributions*. These spawning habitats are critical to the survival of the species.

Additionally, suitable habitats for non-spawning fish are expected to decline by 46 percent.

"To truly understand how climate will impact fishes, we need to know how it will impact the most vulnerable life history stage – spawning. If this link in the life cycle is jeopardized, the species as a whole will be in jeopardy," said Rebecca G. Asch, an assistant professor of fisheries biology at ECU.

The Nassau grouper is one of the most recognizable reef fish in the Caribbean and, as a top predator, the fish contributes to the ecosystem and can act as a warning system for overall reef health.

Nassau groupers depend on the success of their spawning aggregations, where hundreds to thousands of fish gather in one area for a few days to mate. These mass spawning events make them easy targets for fishers, and they were overfished to the point the species became endangered.

Beginning in the 1990s, several countries, including the United States, put outright bans on fishing Nassau grouper. Other countries, such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic, restrict fishing during their winter spawning season. Other areas have restricted fishing in specific breeding grounds.

The paper points out the narrow temperature range Nassau groupers can tolerate while spawning may create a bottleneck that will impact population recovery.

Large breeding events, called spawning aggregations, are important for the health of the ecosystem. Large predators, such as sharks, feed on the gathered grouper. Whale sharks and manta rays feed on the eggs that are released.



Rebecca Asch is one of 126 recipients of the prestigious 2018 Sloan Research Fellowships for her work on climate change and how it affects fish populations.



A Nassau grouper

There is some good news, the scientists said. Mitigating climate change could slow the decline in breeding habitat by only 30 percent.

The scientists plan to expand their research to look at how climate change may affect spawning in 12 species of grouper and snapper in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Their model could aid researchers in studying climate change impacts on other fish species that depend on large spawning events.

The Nippon Foundation-Nereus Program and the National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program Early Career Fellowship funded the research.

– ECU News Services/UT-Austin Communications



Kym Gowdy is studying the effect of pollution on the immune system with help from \$2.5 million from the National Institutes of Health.

Project examines link between pollution, respiratory problems

Ground-level air pollution can cause a variety of health problems, and Kym Gowdy is taking a closer look at how and why. Her work, funded by a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, could help decrease the frequency of respiratory infections such as pneumonia.

“We know that when there are periods of high air pollution, people who are more exposed to that pollution are more susceptible to respiratory infections,” Gowdy said. “There are more hospitalizations for pneumonia around those times, and pneumonia is a huge concern to the U.S. and also other countries because we don’t have the best drugs to treat pneumonia, and some of our outcomes are pretty poor.”

Gowdy is working to pinpoint the role of ozone exposure in respiratory infection.

The focus of Gowdy’s work in the Brody School of Medicine’s Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology is on the mechanisms by which environmental exposures can lead to diseases of the lungs, cardiovascular system and immune system. Her current project centers on ozone, an air pollutant present in low concentrations throughout the ground-level atmosphere. As ozone levels increase due to rising temperatures, increasing vehicle traffic and other factors, it can damage mucous and respiratory tissues.

More than one third of the U.S. population lives in areas exceeding regulatory standards for ozone, according

to the grant summary. While it has been shown to impact immune system response, the specific mechanisms and reasons remain poorly understood.

“We have found that after ... ozone exposure, we can detect red blood cell products in the lung, specifically hemoglobin,” she said. “What that hemoglobin can actually do, if it’s not cleared properly, is it can impair your immune system. Therefore, your immune system can’t fight off these respiratory pathogens as well.”

Using animal models and human samples, Gowdy’s lab is studying how immune cells can handle pathogens before and after ozone exposure.

Gowdy came to ECU in 2014 and has been recognized by the American Association of Immunologists with a Young Investigator Award and a Travel for Techniques Award. Her project was recognized by the NIH as the top priority for funding in its study section.

Ozone concentrations are highest in more populated areas with high levels of traffic and industrial sources. Since it is formed by the interaction of sunlight with those emissions, levels can increase during hot weather. Gowdy said people susceptible to respiratory infections should try to avoid exposure.

“Just keep an eye on the air quality, and if you are someone who has a pre-existing lung disease or even cardiovascular disease, try to limit exposure outside when there are high levels of ozone in the atmosphere,” she said.

– Jules Norwood

Focus

Chris Balakrishnan

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Biologist and founder of Nerd Nite

Nerd Nite lets scientists spread their wings

You could do a live, local take-off on the popular TV talent show and call it "America's Got Science." That is if it didn't already exist with an even cooler name. Nerd Nite.

Yep. Science people rhapsodizing about their field studies and electron microscopes. All thanks to Chris Balakrishnan, assistant professor of biology at ECU, who developed the idea in 2003 while he was a graduate student at Boston University.

Balakrishnan would leave town for a few months to do research, and when he'd get back, his friends at the bar he frequented wanted to know where he'd been. After hearing about it, one of the bartenders suggested he give a talk at the bar.

Balakrishnan realized it would be a good way to tell people what he and other scientists did. Now, Nerd Nites are held in more than 100 cities across the globe. "I didn't think it would expand to multiple cities and multiple countries," Balakrishnan said. "For something to stay relevant for 15 years, that's surprising."

Locally, presenters have ranged from their 20s to their 70s and have talked about everything from hot sauce to turkey hunting. These days,

Balakrishnan lets students handle local Nerd Nites (held at Tapped on Fire Tower Road).

"As I turn into an old codger, maybe it could be better to let younger people run it," he says.

Chequita Brooks, a biology doctoral student, is the local Nerd Nite boss, or organizer. "It's a vague name. It's spelled wrong," she said with a laugh. "OK, that doesn't sound like it would be too much fun. But you get there, and some of the speakers are incredibly charismatic, and they're talking about something they're very passionate about."

She also said "it's really cool" to be at ECU with Balakrishnan. "I kind of brag about it sometimes when I talk to other Nerd Nite bosses," she said.

Nerd Nite can also help a scientist's career, Balakrishnan said. For example, the National Science Foundation emphasizes public communication and outreach.

"For me, it has really helped," he said. "One of the things I've gotten good at ... is explaining my research in English without so much jargon."

– Doug Boyd





Dr. Leigh Patterson,

associate dean for faculty development at the Brody School of Medicine, has been named a 2018–2019 Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine fellow. The international fellowship recognizes her potential for executive leadership in academic medicine. The ELAM program is a yearlong, part-time fellowship for women faculty in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy.



Margaret Bauer, a professor of English, Rives Chair of Southern Literature and editor of the North Carolina Literary Review, has received the 2018 John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities, given by the North Carolina Humanities Council. The award, which has been presented annually since 1990, pays tribute to individuals whose life and work illuminate one or more of the multiple dimensions where humanities come into play: civic, personal, intellectual and moral.



Edward Jacobs, a professor of composition and theory at the School of Music, has received a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. The fellowship is designed to assist in research in any field of knowledge and creation in any of the arts under the freest possible conditions. Jacobs is the first ECU faculty member to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship, which will support the completion of several commissioned works of original music. Approximately 170 fellows were chosen from more than 3,000 applicants last year. Jacobs is founder and director of the North Carolina NewMusic Initiative and is the Robert L. Jones Distinguished Professor of Music.



'BIG BOY' BALL

Dooley brings a new day for men's basketball

In April, ECU's new head men's basketball coach Joe Dooley met with his players and asked them a question: Did they know their ring sizes? He was referring, of course, to the big bling players get after a championship has been won and the confetti cleaned up.

It was a bold question for a team that doesn't have room for much besides improvement. But Dooley wants to be aggressive and ambitious from the get-go.

“WE HAVE TO GET A LITTLE BIT OF A SWAGGER AND A LITTLE BIT OF AN EDGE BACK. THERE'S NOT A LOT OF CONFIDENCE RIGHT NOW, AND COMING OFF OF LAST SEASON, I CAN SEE WHY,” HE SAYS. “THE BIG THING IS BUILDING CONFIDENCE.”



◀ Dooley directs practice at the Smith-Williams Center.

DOOLEY IS
HAPPY TO
BE BACK IN
A COLLEGE
TOWN, BACK
WHERE HIS
PARENTS LIVE,
AND HAPPY
TO SEE WHAT'S
POSSIBLE IN
GREENVILLE
THE SECOND
TIME AROUND.



▲ In 1995 when he was named to his first stint at the helm of ECU men's basketball at age 29, Dooley was the youngest head coach in Division I.

The Pirates finished 10-20 last season under the direction of interim head coach Michael Perry, who took over after Jeff Lebo resigned six games into the season.

Dooley, by contrast, led Florida Gulf Coast University to five consecutive 20-win seasons and five conference titles. He was ECU's head coach from 1995 to 1999 and has returned having agreed to a five-year contract. He says he's happy to be back in a college town, back where his parents live, and happy to see what's possible in Greenville the second time around.

On a hot June morning a few months into his post, he takes a seat behind the desk in his sparsely decorated yet spacious second-floor office with a crow's nest view of the team's practice court. It's the same desk where he'll map out a new era of Pirate basketball. But for now, he stashes his breakfast and speaks candidly about how things are going so far.

"Anytime you take a new job, there's an adjustment period. We're making some progress," he says, adding, "there's a lot of work to do." He has a saying: Anytime you move into a new house, there's bound to be dust under the rug. You just have to figure out how big the pile of dust is.

Dooley is ready to do some sweeping.

Building a reputation

Dooley, 52, is a native of West Orange, New Jersey, and a graduate of George Washington University, where he was a four-year basketball letter-winner and team captain his senior year. He has a thin frame, light blue eyes, slicked back hair and a matter-of-fact way of speaking. He and his wife, Tanya, have a son named Max. His coaching career started in 1988 as an assistant for the University of South Carolina Gamecocks under George Felton. He worked there alongside Eddie Payne and three-time national coach-of-the-year Tubby Smith before accompanying Payne to Greenville.

He took over from Payne as ECU's head coach in 1995. At 29, he was the youngest head coach in NCAA Division I men's basketball. He led the Pirates to their only top-three finish during their 15-year membership in the Colonial Athletic Association. After ECU, he spent three years at the University of New Mexico (1999-2002), a year at Wyoming (2002-2003) and 10 seasons with Bill Self at Kansas University. He won a national championship as an assistant coach at KU in 2008 and helped the Jayhawks earn another Final Four berth in 2012. He also earned a reputation as a talented recruiter, having recruited or coached 14 NBA draft picks in his time at KU, including nine first-round selections.

"There are a lot of factors that go into recruiting that you have to consider," Dooley says. For ECU, one of the factors is perception. "We've got good facilities, we've got a good alumni base, we've just got to get guys on campus," and show them the Pirates' potential, he adds.

Si Seymour, who has been the broadcast analyst for ECU men's basketball for 20 years, says Dooley is synonymous with finding good players all over the country. "He has a good eye for talent. He's been successful where he's been. I think he's in the prime of his career," Seymour says. "He understands what we are, and we are fortunate to have him."

There's a recruiting misconception that the ACC owns the state, Seymour says.

"The ACC is a top basketball conference in the country, but that means they recruit all over the country," he says. "There are a lot of good players in this state that are going elsewhere that could be a major factor in ECU's success. Joe will be recruiting North Carolina extremely hard," Seymour says.



“ HE KNOWS ECU, HE KNOWS EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA, HE KNOWS THE FAN BASE. JOE'S TASK IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE NORM IN THAT WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE A BASKETBALL TRADITION AT ECU. ”

Dave Hart, athletics director from 1987 to 1995 and special athletics advisor to the chancellor



From left, Dooley, ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton and Dave Hart, special advisor for athletics, pose at the April 4 news conference to announce Dooley's return to Greenville.

Reaction to Dooley's hiring among fans, players and students has been positive. Dave Hart, athletics director from 1987 to 1995 and special athletics advisor to Chancellor Cecil Staton, says Dooley was absolutely the best fit for the job. "He knows ECU, he knows eastern North Carolina, he knows the fan base," Hart says, adding the caveat, "Joe's task is much greater than the norm in that we simply do not have a basketball tradition at ECU."

Season ticket holder Reid Tyler '80 drives from Raleigh to attend most games and says he's noticed a subdued atmosphere in the last few years. He – and everyone interviewed for this story – says Minges Coliseum is an electric and intimidating place for opponents when it's full, but that hasn't been happening in recent seasons.

"To me, Dooley looks like our best hire in a long time," Tyler says. "I think the early enthusiasm will hopefully beget more enthusiasm."

One of the goals for student body president Jordan Koonts is to get students to show up and stay at games. "If students show up in force, it will set an example for alumni and other fans. If the students are behind the team, it says others should back them as well," Koonts says.

Hart says another problem is that fans might not realize how competitive the American Athletic Conference is. Three programs – Cincinnati, Houston and Wichita State – earned NCAA tournament bids this year. Houston has been to five Final Fours. Memphis is considered a traditional power. And Temple is the fifth-winningest program in the country.

Dooley calls it a "big-boy conference."

"We're in a great league, and we've got to help ourselves, and our fans have to help us, too," he says. "We've got to put a product on the court that our fans are proud of. We've got to create some interest in our program and get our fans in here."

Part of the plan is to play more aggressive basketball. Houston, Cincinnati and Wichita State – the likely teams to beat for next year's conference title – are playing with highly skilled, athletic players, and when the Pirates meet them

on the court, "we need to not back down," Dooley says.

A successful basketball program can have a positive ripple effect on the whole university. There's even a term for it: basketball bump. According to a recent education data analysis by Bloomberg, schools that perform well or better than expected during the NCAA tournament receive an increase in public awareness, applications and donations. Wichita State University saw a 29 percent application increase after its Final Four appearance in 2013. When Florida Gulf Coast upset Georgetown that same year, Google searches for the school spiked to about triple the norm. And a trip to the 2018 Final Four for Loyola-Chicago resulted in a 660 percent increase in donations as compared to the previous year, the report says.

The last time ECU was in the NCAA tournament was 1993.

"When you have a clean, successful, well-managed program, it helps the whole university," Hart says. "And when that program wins consistently, it helps enrollment and it helps shape people's attitudes."

Seth LeDay dribbles during practice in the Smith-Williams Center.



SEE
THE
VIDEO

Joe Dooley has his players working hard to compete against the best that college basketball has to offer.

<https://bit.ly/2LbvKMO>



◀ Dooley instructs Justin Whatley during a June workout.

Doing the work

It's the early afternoon in the Smith-Williams Center, and players filter onto the court for practice. They run through quick cuts and drives to the hoop as Dooley watches from center court, his assistants orbiting. Dooley leans forward as if to better see every move, occasionally stopping the action to correct a player, with the exasperated additive, "It's not that hard!" They do pushups whenever they miss a shot.

Returning players include guards Isaac Fleming, Shawn Williams and K.J. Davis, wing Seth LeDay and forwards Dimitrije Spasojevic and Justin Whatley.

Davis, a 6-6 forward from Portsmouth, Virginia, says he never considered leaving ECU

after the coaching change. "It's been a great transition. I think everybody likes (Dooley). We're still getting to know him, and he's still getting to know us, but we're learning a lot from him," Davis says.

Williams, a 6-0 guard from Little Rock, Arkansas, who led all conference freshmen in scoring last season, adds that Dooley's effort to make them more confident is working.

"We're all buying into the plan. He's telling us to work hard, and that's what we're doing," Williams says. "Next season, I want to make the tournament, win our conference and make history at ECU."

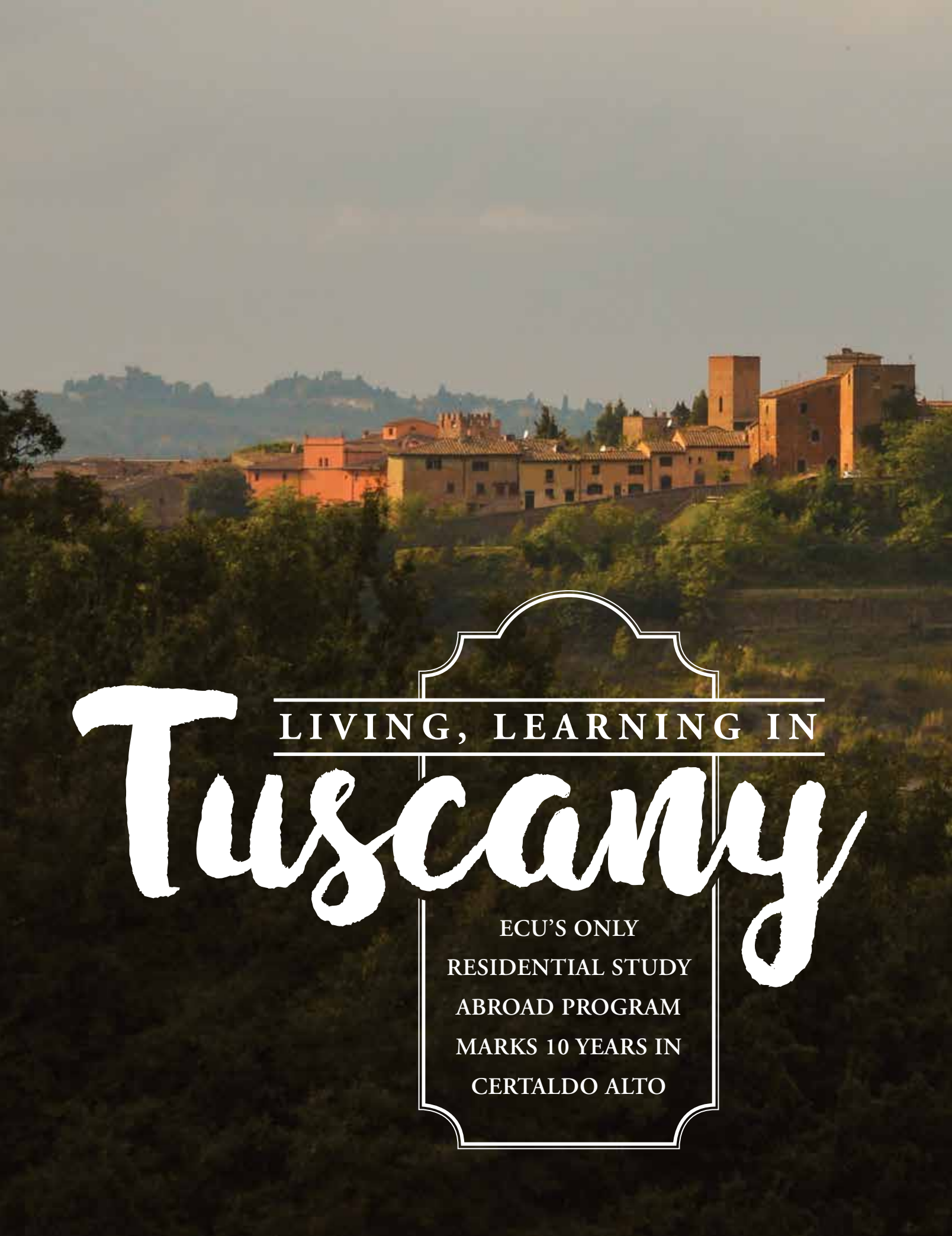
Both players are looking forward to more wins next season. Dooley is, too. Probably more than most people expect.

"I've been to 19 straight postseason tournaments. I don't want that streak to break," he says frankly. While others advise patience with the program's transition, Dooley contends that patience "isn't a virtue" with him.

"If you don't think big, how are you going to end up big? Isn't that why we play?" he asks. "If you don't talk about going to the NCAA tournament, you probably shouldn't play or coach. I think our fans deserve good basketball. We're going to work every day to give it to them." ► E

“ HE HAS A GOOD EYE FOR TALENT. HE’S BEEN SUCCESSFUL WHERE HE’S BEEN. I THINK HE’S IN THE PRIME OF HIS CAREER. HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE ARE, AND WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE HIM. ”

Si Seymour, broadcast analyst for ECU men’s basketball



LIVING, LEARNING IN

Tuscany

ECU'S ONLY
RESIDENTIAL STUDY
ABROAD PROGRAM
MARKS 10 YEARS IN
CERTALDO ALTO



On a 500-year-old brick courtyard, 22 East Carolina University students are practicing their poses in yoga class while the hilltop village of Certaldo Alto wakes up. Birds are chirping in the distance and the sun is rising over the rolling green hills of Tuscany.

A group of preschoolers walks by two-by-two holding hands with their classmates. They chatter in Italian while staring at the Americans on their colorful mats.

Later, the students will fan out with their cameras and sketchbooks in hand for market day in the larger city of Certaldo Bosso, its 12,000 residents located below Certaldo Alto.

This is what Linda Darty envisioned when she dreamed of establishing an ECU campus in Tuscany – the students live and study in Italy. They aren't just tourists checking sites off their list; they live among Italians and have Italian landlords.

Darty is director of the ECU Tuscany program, which was originally named Italy Intensives, and professor of metal design in the School of Art and Design. She sits in a work room in the Palazzo Stiozzi-Ridolfi, which in the early 15th century held the market in its porticoed courtyard. Today, the building houses ECU's classrooms downstairs with student and staff housing upstairs.

Above Darty's work table, pinned to the room divider is "Congrats on 10 years" spelled out in hand-cut large letters over a purple-and-gold ECU pennant and an image of the Tuscan hillside printed on fabric with signatures of previous students framing it. The students presented it to Darty at the end of a spring semester of classes.

"I really want the students to have that transformative experience that I did when I was 21 years old and studied abroad. It stays with you all of your life," Darty says. "You don't even know what it is; you internalize it. Then you suddenly look at the world in a different way. You begin to ask questions you would have never asked before."

What started in 2008 as a summer abroad trip is now a year-round program in Certaldo Alto, a walled medieval village that in the early 15th century was the political center of the Florentine Republic.

Today, the "unofficial mayor" of Certaldo Alto, Elio Ansaldo, proudly tells hikers and tourists visiting his village that it is also home to "the East Carolina University."

The students, he says, using an Italian phrase, "bring the wind of youth." They can be seen walking along the bricked streets to and from class and ducking into alleys to head to their apartments or local restaurants for lunch. Their youthful energy along with their financial boost are beneficial to the village, which looks like it could be a movie set instead of home to 150 residents.

Since that first group arrived in summer 2008, more than 800 students have studied in Italy as part of the program.

Study abroad at ECU

Jon Rezek, assistant vice chancellor for Global Affairs, arrived at ECU in January 2017 and has been tasked with raising the profile and numbers of ECU's global affairs office.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, 586 ECU students participated in an international experience. That number rose 19.8 percent in 2017-2018 to 702, according to global affairs data. But there's more to be done to provide



▲ With Linda Darty looking on, Alison Moller translates the Latin inscription outside of the Palazzo Pretorio in Certaldo Alto, which was the seat of political power in the early 15th century in Tuscany. A senior in the Honors College, Moller, of Cary, is majoring in chemistry, classical studies and great books.



Above, one of the historic apartments in Certaldo Alto that students live in. Right, Jon Rezek, assistant vice chancellor for global affairs, left, speaks with Linda Darty, director of the ECU Tuscany program, and Elio Ansaldo, longtime resident of Certaldo Alto.





◀ Top, photography students edit images on their computers while instructor Jim Abbott prepares for the class critique. Below, sophomore Wesley Sanchez of Greenville waits to see what the jester has in store for him during a Renaissance-themed dinner at Palazzo Borghese in Florence.



“ I WISH I HAD STUDIED ABROAD. IT’S TRANSFORMATIVE. I’VE NEVER HEARD A STUDENT SAY, ‘I WISH I HAD STAYED ON CAMPUS.’ ”

Jon Rezek, assistant vice chancellor for global affairs

Left, Kelsey Cudahy of Matthews, who is majoring in animation, takes in the 14th century Gothic art inside the duomo in San Gimignano.

more students the opportunity to study beyond Greenville, Rezek says.

Chancellor Cecil Staton often speaks to students about how his time in England at the University of Oxford while earning his doctorate helped shape his life.

“It’s important to remember that you can study abroad and graduate in four years,” Rezek says. “We have full-semester programs; students can take classes in the humanities, business and health sciences. And we have shorter terms – 35 to 40 summer programs most often led by ECU faculty members.”

ECU Tuscany is the university’s only program with a year-round permanent facility abroad and three dedicated staff members. Six to eight ECU faculty members join them for each semester.

The University of North Carolina system has two residential programs abroad – ECU Tuscany and the N.C. State European Center in Prague.



The picturesque harbor of Vernazza, one of the five small villages that make up Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997, on the Italian Riviera.

“ BEING ABROAD SHOWED ME THAT THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS OUT IN THIS WORLD TO EXPLORE, THAT TUNNEL-VISIONING YOURSELF INTO ONE HOBBY, PASSION OR JOB ONLY HINDERS YOUR GROWTH. ”

Emma O'Brien, EC Scholar

“I wish I had studied abroad,” says Rezek. “It’s transformative. I’ve never heard a student say, ‘I wish I had stayed on campus.’”

In mid-May, Rezek visited the ECU Tuscany site for the first time and was impressed.

“It’s a safe environment. They travel to Florence, Sienna, Venice, Rome and then come back to Certaldo Alto, where everyone knows each other. It’s comfortable here,” he says.

He also noted the level of dedication by the faculty and staff toward the students and the program itself.

“The faculty members and staff get to know the students, mentor them when they are here. It’s a tight-knit community; the city embraces the students. It’s a great program for them as well,” Rezek says.

EC Scholar Emma O’Brien studied in Italy during the spring semester, which was her first time in Europe. In summer 2017, O’Brien participated in a monthlong study abroad program in Australia and New Zealand, which she said was a great experience and set the bar high for her semester in Certaldo. The five months in Tuscany surpassed her expectations.

“I did not realize all of the amazing things we were going to get to do during our semester in Italy. Almost every weekend we were traveling to

about ECU TUSCANY

COST OF TUITION

Since program fees include tuition and housing, it’s often less expensive to study in Tuscany. “It is such a bargain,” says Linda Darty, director of the program, adding they aim to make it as affordable as possible for every student. Two scholarships are available for students accepted into the ECU Tuscany program.

CLASSES

Classes vary each term and include courses to earn general education requirements, such as world history, art history, literature, Italian language, geology, digital photography, drawing, color and design, jewelry making and painting.

“Courses are chosen for the program that take advantage of our location in Tuscany. Geology students climb to the top of Mount Vesuvius and into the caves of Lucca. History students walk through the Roman Colosseum and ruins of Pompeii. And

literature and art history students can walk in the footsteps of Plato, Da Vinci, Michelangelo and live next door to the writer Giovanni Boccaccio’s house,” Darty says.

LIVING

Students live in historic apartments – fully renovated and equipped with modern appliances – near the classrooms in Certaldo Alto. And on days when classes are held, the students dine with faculty and staff as part of the community building. The cost of both is included in the student’s tuition and fees.

TRAVEL

On weekends and semester breaks, students can travel independently or with classmates throughout Italy and other European countries.



different parts of the country, touring amazing museums, having classes in engaging environments and meeting interesting people,” she says.

The junior business management major from the town of Wake Forest also challenged herself by taking three studio art classes. “My favorite class, metal design, showed me that I do have a more creative side. ... Being abroad showed me that there are so many people, places and things out in this world to explore, that tunnel-visioning yourself into one hobby, passion or job only hinders your growth.” ► E

Above, students in the second summer 2018 session pose on one of the more than 400 bridges, which cross more than 150 canals, in Venice. The students often tell Linda Darty, the director of the ECU Tuscany program, that Venice is one of their favorite cities to explore. Above right, junior Brooke DiGregorio of Mahopac, New York, listens during a class.



“ I REALLY WANT THE STUDENTS TO HAVE THAT TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE THAT I DID WHEN I WAS 21 YEARS OLD AND STUDIED ABROAD. IT STAYS WITH YOU ALL OF YOUR LIFE. ”

Linda Darty, director of the ECU Tuscany program

STAFF

Since that first summer study abroad trip in 2008, Darty has been the director of ECU Tuscany, formerly called Italy Intensives. She studied in Italy as an undergraduate in the 1970s and dreamed of taking her ECU students not only to see the Italian masterpieces but also to experience Italy firsthand. Darty does everything from teaching art history and jewelry design to giving a maternal hug to a homesick student on those first days.

“When students arrive in Italy, they are not sure what to expect,” she says. “They come here and experience not only a bonding experience as students together from ECU, but they realize not only are we very different from the culture in Italy, but we are all very much alike. I see them grow up and change. They know more about themselves.”

In addition to Darty, **Stuart Watson**, a photographer in Philadelphia for many years, is on site as assistant director,

managing the facilities and finances, helping the students with everything from navigating the local Coop grocery store to contacting landlords about broken water heaters. He also archives the program.

Lucy Plato Clark arrived in Certaldo as a student in 2011; she stayed in Florence completing her jewelry design degree. Clark’s ability to switch between fluent Italian and English in a single conversation and knowledge of the Italian culture are invaluable, Darty says. When she’s not organizing the multi-layers of logistics for class trips to Florence or Rome, she is also a photographer.

Working closely with the staff is assistant **Francesca Maddalena**, who grew up not far from Certaldo Alto; her artist father, Pietro Elia Maddalena, whose nearby pottery studio brings students from around the world to study with him, helped Darty solidify the initial plan to bring students to Tuscany.



Born into a builder family, Marnie Oursler '01 traded her softball cleats for a hard hat and now builds spectacular beach homes on the DIY Network.

STORY BY ERIN SHAW

Marnie Oursler's

BUILDING BIG



The 2001 alumna's beach homes are prime time

When Marnie Oursler was at East Carolina University, she packed her days with softball practices, sorority activities and a job at a real estate office, where she'd run around Greenville snapping photos of houses for the agency's website.

She's still just as busy, only now she's juggling her own business, Marnie Custom Homes, and a TV show on the DIY Network, "Big Beach Builds."

"My days are kinda crazy," she says. "If we're filming, the days are long – 15 hours easily. I'm out on job sites all the time, or going over blueprints or kitchen designs. The one constant is work."

On "Big Beach Builds," Oursler transforms dated homes along the Delaware coast into her clients' fantasy beach retreats. The series aired in 2017 and is in its second season. On the show, Oursler can do it all, from foundation fixes to finishing design touches. Her favorite part – like any home repair show fan – is the big reveal at the end when clients see the jaw-dropping end product.

"Seeing their reactions – most of these homes are a dream come true for clients," she says.

In one episode this season, Chris and Nancy Brown look to Oursler to expand and lighten up their beach abode's unwelcoming exterior and cramped kitchen.

Oursler jumps to work, using a pink spray can to mark items for demolition. Then she and her crew

rip up planks, smash walls with sledgehammers and level the sinking front porch. The dark brown siding is replaced with white vinyl and cedar shingles. The kitchen is gussied up with a big island, wet bar and open shelving. The dining room wall is pushed out to accommodate a huge table made from a single slab of oak and illuminated by a custom-built light shaped like a boat.

The result is clean, contemporary and bright. When the Browns arrive to see the transformation, they gasp with delight.

"You nailed it," Chris Brown tells Oursler.

"It looks fabulous. Love it. Love it," Nancy Brown adds. She and her husband beam at the camera. Nancy continues, "You know Marnie is good, but you don't realize how good she is until you really come in and open your eyes to the surprise and see it."

Oursler grew up in a family of builders. Her father, grandfather, uncles and brother made careers in the industry. She spent summers in the Washington, D.C., area working for her dad as a job site laborer, sweeping out houses, picking up trash and eating lunch on an upturned drywall bucket.

"It was nothing glamorous," Oursler says, but it instilled in her a valuable work ethic. She's still the first one on the job site to pick up a broom or stay late and does "whatever it takes" to get the job done.



Oursler grew up in a family of builders. Her father, grandfather, uncles and brother all made careers in the industry. She spent summers in the Washington, D.C., area working for her dad as a job site laborer, sweeping out houses, picking up trash and eating lunch on an upturned drywall bucket.



Oursler as a Pirate.

A softball scholarship brought her to ECU, where she played shortstop and graduated in 2001 with a degree in business education.

“We were all for it,” her father, Marvin Oursler, says of his daughter’s college choice. His older daughter attended Elon but visited ECU when considering schools. For Marnie, “ECU was the right place at the right time,” he says.

Oursler would often make the five-hour trip from southern Maryland to Greenville to watch his daughter’s softball games. “She gave the sport everything she had,” he says.

Jenny Parsons, the assistant softball coach during Marnie Oursler’s playing days, says she recently saw her on TV and thought, “Holy cow, there’s my shortstop.” But she wasn’t surprised.

“You could always tell she was going to be successful,” Parsons says. “She was a dedicated athlete, a hard worker but also had a great personality. She did a lot for our program.”

Through it all, Oursler stayed focused, organized and grounded.

“She’s always juggling two or three things at one time. That’s how she’s built, I guess,” Marvin Oursler says.

After ECU, she got her master’s in business administration from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business. She worked as a real estate agent before starting Marnie Custom Homes, combining her construction know-how with a knack for style combinations that ooze calmness and relaxation. Her

custom home business builds around seven houses a year for \$8-9 million in annual revenue. In 2014, she was approached by TV producers for a potential series, which became “Big Beach Builds.”

Oursler’s father and brother are guest consultants on the show, helping her combat the unique challenges that come with building and renovating beach homes.

“Weather is the main issue,” she says. Being so close to the water means understanding flood zones and hurricanes, where the rain and water are going to go and making sure houses can withstand that.

Episodes often feature materials and techniques – using an underlayment beneath shingles to help with ventilation or a deck with mold-resistant composite planks – that beach-savvy builders need to think about.

Oursler’s father says these tips are part of what make the show fun to watch. “If you look at the show, you see how Marnie really understands the building process. You can learn something from it.”

Even though cameras are rolling, Oursler says her main focus is always the clients and making sure she’s doing everything she can for them, not the show. She helps them navigate decisions regarding color palettes and finishes and keeps the construction on schedule whenever they change their minds. The clients also provide the design inspiration, although Oursler’s work often combines modern coastal and traditional styles.

“No matter what, I know the end product is going to be good,” she says.

Oursler has received a number of accolades, including *Professional Builder* magazine’s 40 Under 40 Award, a Strong, Smart & Bold Award from Girls Inc., and a gold 2013 Stevie Award for Women in Business in the category of Female Entrepreneur of the Year.

While the show and her business remain in Delaware, Oursler returns to North Carolina for work on the Duke business school’s board. And she still keeps in touch with her ECU friends from Chi Omega and the softball team.

“ECU was definitely one of the best things that ever happened to me,” Oursler says. “I had a great experience there and met so many amazing people. It was definitely a special place for me.” ► E

◀ *Whether it’s an outdated existing house such as this one in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, or new construction, Oursler’s company, Marnie Custom Homes, creates masterpieces. Watch this one transform at bit.ly/2MujdKu.*



WATCH
THE
SHOW

“Big Beach Builds” airs on the DIY Network Mondays at 8 p.m.



Hometown: Mobile, Alabama

Major: Fourth-year medical student at the Brody School of Medicine

Career goals: Become an emergency medicine physician with a fellowship in sports medicine

After a standout career as a defensive end at William & Mary, O'Connor played professional football for the Minnesota Vikings, the Hamburg Sea Devils of NFL Europe and the Carolina Panthers. Now, he's completing medical school at ECU.

Why did you choose ECU?

I really appreciated the sense of camaraderie that was apparent when I interviewed. Such a dynamic is not always as fundamental to other medical schools. Additionally, I was impressed at the level of community awareness and engagement exhibited by ECU, particularly Brody.

What service activities are you involved in as a medical student?

The students of Brody have a great relationship with the Greenville Community Shelter Clinic, allowing us to engage with folks in the community from the first day we step foot on campus all the way through to graduation and beyond. I've also had the opportunity on a number of occasions to speak with elementary and high school students about medical school and my own path.

What other activities are you involved in?

School definitely predominates my life, but in the hours I have free, I enjoy working out, playing hockey and cooking.

How have your experiences as a football player helped you succeed in medical school?

Through football came the recognition that success in any endeavor is rarely attained overnight, but rather is the product of countless hours of work behind the scenes. A career in medicine is no different. There are no shortcuts to success in medicine, only a lot of hard work and dues to pay.



Where to buy



Online
shop.ecupirates.com



Find retailers
ecu.edu/licensing

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This tag indicates official merchandise.



Buying officially licensed ECU products supports the Pirates

► One of the strongest traditions at ECU is showing your pride by wearing and displaying your favorite purple and gold products. From apparel, tailgate tents and flags, to blankets, bags, picture frames and jewelry, you can find it branded for Pirate Nation.

Loyal Pirate fans should look for the "official licensed products" label when shopping at your favorite retail outlets. The officially licensed products label confirms the university has approved the product, and royalties derived from the sale support the Pirates.

When looking for officially licensed ECU products, try our online store, shop.ECUPirates.com, or visit one of our retailers. More information is at ecupirates.com/sports/2016/7/5/trademark-licensing.aspx and ecu.edu/cs-admin/licensing/RetailersNew.cfm.

ECU was a national leader when it established its trademark licensing program in 1983 to protect the use of its name and symbols. The university has established formal licensing procedures that also enable the institution to share in the benefits derived from the commercial use of its name and symbols.

Remember, every Friday is a 'Paint It Purple' Friday for all of Pirate Nation to show your pride by wearing purple and gold wherever you go.

For more information, please contact the ECU Trademark Licensing Office at 252-737-1508.

– ECU Athletics

PIRATE NATION ★

With her starring role in Paramount Network's new dramedy "American Woman" alongside Alicia Silverstone and Mena Suvari, actress and Raleigh native Jennifer Bartels '03 is enjoying a well-deserved moment in the spotlight that's been years in the making.

The show is set in 1975 Los Angeles and follows three women struggling with relationships and independence in an era when strong women weren't the norm. It was inspired by the upbringing of co-executive producer and "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" reality star Kyle Richards.

Bartels, a Millbrook High School graduate, plays Diana, a junior loan officer at a bank who is trying to climb the corporate ladder. She's a close friend of Silverstone's character, Bonnie, a housewife who must navigate finding a job and managing finances after leaving her cheating husband. Suvari's character, Kathleen, is a wealthy businesswoman bankrolling her boyfriend's career.

"Diana is the friend dealing with the working grind and some levels of misogyny," Bartels says. "She's figuring out who she is as a woman and a person."

Bartels studied articles and documentaries to better embody Diana and the '70s vibe.

"We tried to educate ourselves to understand the perspective of those women. It shows that we have come far, but still have far to go," she says.

Bartels learned acting fundamentals at ECU and studied the Meisner acting technique, which stresses spontaneity and honest reactions. She says professors Natalie Stewart, Robert Caprio and the late John Shearin were integral to her career. "They instilled that drive you need to have in this industry and taught me to be prepared, because if you aren't, there's someone right behind you ready to go," she says. "They shaped and pushed me to be where I am today."

After graduating from ECU with a degree in theatre, Bartels moved to New York, where she sold cellphones by day and took improv classes by night. She landed a gig with the famous comedy troupe Upright Citizens Brigade and started pursuing more comedy and commercials. In 2012, she moved to Los Angeles, then appeared in "Men in Black 3" and was a member of truTV's first scripted sketch show, "Friends of the People," where she served as writer, performer and executive producer for two seasons.



**BARTELS '03 CHANNELS THE '70S,
FEMALE POWER IN 'AMERICAN WOMAN'**

From left, Jennifer Bartels '03 stars with Alicia Silverstone and Mena Suvari in "American Woman" on the Paramount Network.

In 2016, she auditioned for "American Woman." The combination of drama and comedy was a good fit for Bartels.

"As the episodes progressed, they allowed me to go farther with Diana, to run with a lot of things and improvise," she says.

The reaction to the show from friends and family has been "amazing," she adds.

"Everyone is so proud. I've been getting so much support. I worked really hard and wanted this, and wonderful things have happened."

— Erin Shaw



**INHOSPITABLE SPIRITS FILL NOVEL
ABOUT AN AMERICAN IN ASIA**

Marshall Moore '92 writes about Chinese ghosts in his latest novel.



Inhospitable
Camphor Press, May 2018
302 pages
camphorpress.com

From Havelock to Hong Kong, Marshall Moore '92 has a lot to write about.

The Hong-Kong based author and college professor has published his fourth novel, *Inhospitable*, about an American couple who inherit some prime real estate in Hong Kong. But the windfall comes with a catch: They cannot sell the building. Thus begins Lena Haze's work to refurbish it amid culture shock, business obstacles and malignant ghosts. Her previous experiences with the spirit world don't help; she's dealing with Chinese ghosts this time. Different rules, rituals and customs apply, and she has no idea what is coming.

"A lot of work and a lot of research went into it, and I'm quite proud of how it turned out," Moore said by email about the book. "Even though it's mostly set in Hong Kong, I think that people in N.C. will connect with it. I hope so, anyway."

On bookish.asia, John Grant Ross said Moore's writing "is difficult to categorize, but is perhaps best described as literary fiction with a touch of weirdness."

Moore was born at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and grew up in Greenville. He didn't finish high school, but completed his GED. His parents – who worked at ECU at the time – helped him get enrolled in college.

The late English professor David Sanders stands out from Moore's days at ECU.

"His first-year honors English class (or whatever it was called then) was genuinely intellectually stimulating. He chose books that pushed us to use our heads, and he wasn't shy about challenging us for sloppy thinking. Sanders also mattered on a personal level because he was gay and fairly out about it, considering the time and the place. He was sort of dashing and had a great car. I think I'm about the same age now that he was then, and I suppose I'm carrying on a tradition of sorts with my own students."

In a way, Moore is also carrying on the tradition of Southern literature. He writes about not just Westerners in a foreign land, but Southerners.

"Southern is or was a regional identity with many of the characteristics of an ethnicity," he said. "When you're Southern, you're very much aware that you're an American but also kind of not. There's also the sense and the importance of place ... the sense of being a distinct part of the country that isn't like everywhere else."

– Doug Boyd

Grabbing opportunity

STANDOUT RECEIVER

LOOKS TO LEAVE HIS MARK

Trevon Brown could have folded.

He could have become a statistic, another kid from a tough neighborhood who never found a way out. Instead he spent his time at the Boys & Girls Club, playing drums and sports.

He could have given up on his dreams when he had a son as a senior in high school. Instead he dedicated his life to something bigger than himself.

“I just have to do everything in my power to make his life better,” says Brown, a senior wide receiver and kick returner for the Pirates football team.

He could have crumpled when, faced with the challenge of maintaining his grades in a college setting, he found himself short of the credits he needed to play in the 2016 season. Instead he sought academic help and shored up his grades.

“Coming from high school to college, not really knowing how to take stuff out of a book and turn it into your own words, I needed help,” he says. “All I had to do was use it, and when I used that help, I made the dean’s list.”

Brown returned to the field and turned in a breakout performance in 2017. He led the Pirates in nine statistical categories, including receptions (60), receiving yards (1,069), touchdowns (seven) and kick-return yards (452).

After being named second-team All-AAC following last season, Brown is a First-Team Preseason All-AAC selection this year by Athlon Sports and Phil Steele’s *College Football Preview* magazine. He’s also on Athlon’s list of the Top 50 Underrated Players for 2018.

Head coach Scottie Montgomery described Brown as a team player who works hard.

“It’s easy to see that Trevon Brown has great chemistry with anybody that he goes into the game with. He’s hard to stop,” Montgomery said.

Following in the footsteps of star Pirate receivers who have made it to the NFL, Brown has set out to be a vocal leader for his teammates.

“I want to make sure I finish my routes and play every play,” he says. “I want to show everybody that I’m still positive and . . . I’m leading from the front and not behind.”

Off the field, he wants to make an impact through his study of child development and an internship with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain in Greenville, where he wants to pay forward the care and guidance he received as a youth.

Brown says he can’t wait to take the field with his team this fall.

“You really don’t understand until you put (that uniform) on,” he says. “It’s just a feeling you can’t even explain – to walk out of the tunnel for warmups and not see too many people, but when you come out for the game and you see 50,000, it’s mind-blowing. I never thought I’d be here playing in front of 50,000 great fans, so it’s unbelievable.”

– Jules Norwood



Trevon Brown

Year: Senior

Major: University studies

Hometown: Wilmington

Position: Wide receiver

“ I WANT TO SHOW EVERYBODY THAT I’M ... LEADING FROM THE FRONT AND NOT BEHIND.”



5

5 MINUTES WITH KEITH PARNELL '88

Position: Senior aerospace science instructor,
Jones Senior High School, Trenton

Degree: Bachelor's degree in biology

Hometown: New Bern

"It is easy to say that my days at ECU helped shape and mold me into the person I am today. Why? For many reasons but I think ECU has always had an underlying 'chip-on-the-shoulder, never give up' mantra that says, 'Oh yeah, well we can do it just as good as you and probably better!'

"So, after four years of Air Force ROTC, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant and went to pilot training. It was unbelievably tough, exceedingly intimidating and extremely competitive. I can vividly remember getting to know the other folks in my flight class. They were incredibly sharp and attended top-notch universities/military academies throughout the country: U.S. Air Force Academy, Texas A&M, Washington, Kansas, Colorado, VMI, Norwich. But I used the mindset I learned at ECU and steadily progressed through the ranks during my 23 years as a pilot/officer in the Air Force. I'm proud to say that only two officers in my flight class were promoted to the rank of full colonel, and I was one of them.

"After retirement, I moved back home and became an AFJROTC instructor at a local high school. Now, I try to share some of the lessons learned throughout my career and teach them the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions. On a daily basis, I 'preach' the importance of character and integrity so these young folks can build positive habit patterns ... now. And, of course, I'm hoping a little of that ECU 'never give up attitude' will rub off on them as they transition to compete in today's globally competitive environment."

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.



Calendar

ON CAMPUS



She burst on the national scene in 1991 when she made sexual harassment claims against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas in testimony before Congress. Today, **Anita Hill** is a women's and civil rights advocate and law professor at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. She's collaborating with artist Mark Branford to create a

Tickets are available at ecu.edu/voyages.

400-foot painting in Washington, D.C., that revisits the lost texts of civil rights activist Myrtle Evers-Williams. And she's speaking at East Carolina University on Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium as part of the Voyages of Discovery lecture series. The title of her talk is "Social Movement to Social Impact: Putting an End to Sexual Harassment in the Workplace."

In the second Voyages event of the fall, **Angus Konstam**, author, historian and world-renowned expert on pirates, will present "Blackbeard at 300: New Findings on North Carolina's Most (In)famous Pirate" at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 in Wright Auditorium.

A former naval officer, underwater archaeologist and museum curator, Konstam specializes in maritime and military history. He's best known for his work on piracy and is the author of more than 100 books, including "History of Pirates" and "Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate." His visit to ECU coincides with the 300th anniversary of Blackbeard's death.



ON STAGE

S. RUDOLPH ALEXANDER PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

The Tony Awards meets "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" in "**Broadway's Next H!T Musical.**" Every song is fresh, every scene is new and every night is different. It's all improvised, and it's all funny. Master improvisers gather made-up hit song suggestions from the audience and create a spontaneous evening of music, humor and laughter. The audience votes for their favorite made-up song and then watches as the cast turns it into a full-blown improvised musical, complete with memorable characters, witty dialogue and plot twists galore. Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

"**The Sons of Serendip**" are four friends who through a series of serendipitous events got together in graduate school and auditioned for "America's Got Talent." They quickly became an audience favorite and won fourth place in the 2014 competition. Fast forward, and the friends have five albums to their credit. They'll perform selections from their album "Christmas Beyond the Lights" at ECU on Nov. 29 at 8 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.



Tickets for both events are \$45, \$35, \$25 and \$15 and are available at ecuarts.com.

FAMILY FARE



When Pete the Cat gets caught rocking out after bedtime, the cat-catcher sends him to live with the Biddle family to learn his manners – and boy are they square! But for the groovy blue cat, life is an adventure no matter where you wind up, so the minute Pete walks in the door, he gets the whole family rocking. The whole family, that is, except for young Jimmy Biddle, the most

organized second-grader on planet Earth. Enjoy **“Pete the Cat”** on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

In an Appalachian retelling of the classic tale, **“Jack and the Wonder Beans”** reinforces a truth: A life simply lived is simply worth living. Mayhem ensues when Jack trades his cow for “seeds.” His adventures with the High Tall Giant Woman and her husband go awry until the audience restores order for Jack and his Mam. One performance Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

Ticket information is at artscomm.ecu.edu/performing-arts/family-fare.

MUSIC

FESTIVALS

ECU’s **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** presents two concert residencies at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville this fall, with the **Season Opening Extravaganza** on Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 28 at 8 p.m.; and **Chamber Music Monuments** on Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

The Season Opening Extravaganza is reprised Sept. 30 at 3 p.m., and **Chamber Music Monuments** is reprised Nov. 11 at 3 p.m., both at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

Tickets and more information are available at ecu.edu/fourseasons or by calling 252-328-6019.

Four Seasons Next Generation concerts are presented this fall in Greenville at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m.; in Durham at the Nelson Music Room at Duke University on Oct. 21 at 5 p.m.; at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro on Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m.; and at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte on Oct. 28 at 5 p.m. Next Generation ECU faculty artists, ECU Next Gen alumni artists and selected ECU students perform and interact with selected participants in each concert city. Free and open to the public.

Three **Four Seasons Winter Workshop** concerts of different programs are presented Jan. 4 at 7 p.m., Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 6 at 3 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville. Workshop faculty guest performing artists Ani Kavafian, violin; Ida Kavafian, violin/viola; Steven Tenenbom, viola; Michael Kannen, cello; Colin Carr, cello; and others will join ECU faculty and rising stars from throughout the world in the concerts. Free and open to the public.

North Carolina NewMusic Initiative director Ed Jacobs welcomes **ModernMedieval** to ECU’s A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Sept. 13. ModernMedieval Trio of Voices is a new, all-female ensemble created by Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek, former member of the renowned vocal quartet Anonymous 4. Martha Cluver and Eliza Bagg join her from the celebrated ensemble Roomful of Teeth to present programs that combine medieval chant and polyphony with new commissions and music from later eras.



Hornist **Adam Unsworth** and Ukrainian-born, Australian-based composer/pianist **Catherine Likhuta** will perform contemporary works for horn and piano in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Oct. 25. Formerly a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Unsworth has recorded five critically acclaimed albums as a leader, including “Balance,” a jazz recording for horn, jazz sextet and chamber orchestra, and “Snapshots,” a recording of contemporary works with Likhuta.

Premiere Performances, a concert dedicated to the newest ideas of ECU’s developing young composers, will be presented at the School of Music’s A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Nov. 19.

All North Carolina NewMusic Initiative concerts are at 7:30 p.m., and admission is free. More information is at ecu.edu/newmusic.

OPERA

ECU Opera Theater and directors John Kramar and Daniel Shirley present *A Little Night Music* by Stephen Sondheim at the historic Turnage Theatre in Washington, with performances Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Suggested by the film *Smiles of a Summer Night* by Ingmar Bergman, *A Little Night Music* is a romantic comedy with a tangled web of involvements that continues to surprise with twists and turns. Featuring the classic song "Send in the Clowns" and a beautiful, lush score, *A Little Night Music* is a story of love, nostalgia, regret and the magic of music on a summer's night.

For ticket information call 252-946-2504.

ORCHESTRA

The **ECU Symphony Orchestra**, Jorge Richter, conductor, is in concert three times in fall semester. Concerts are Sept. 15, featuring Rota's *Concerto for trombone and orchestra*, Stephen Ivany, guest soloist, and Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique, Op. 14*; Oct. 6, featuring Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1 in C major, Op. 15*, Kwan Yi, guest soloist, and Dvořák's *No. 8 in G major, Op. 88*; and Nov. 10, featuring Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, Mignone's *Concertino for Clarinet and Orchestra*, Douglas Moore-Monroe, guest soloist, and Ginastera's *Dances from Estancia*, dance suite from the ballet.

All ECU Symphony Orchestra performances are at 7:30 p.m. in ECU's Wright Auditorium and are free and open to the public. For information, call 252-328-6851.



BANDS AND ENSEMBLES

The **Symphonic Wind Ensemble**, the **Concert Band** and the **Symphonic Band** take the stage for Bandoramas on Sept. 25 and Nov. 8. Both concerts are in Wright Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 18 is all about the mallets and sticks, timpani and tom toms, and cymbals and gongs at Fletcher Music Center when the **Percussion Ensemble** performs in Room B110 at 7:30 p.m.

Classical guitarists perform together when the **ECU Guitar Ensemble** concertizes Nov. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

Cool cats rule at Wright Auditorium on Dec. 1 with the **ECU Combined Jazz Ensembles** in a jazzy concert at 8 p.m.

The annual **Holiday Band Concert** featuring songs of the season and a visit from Santa is Dec. 2 in Wright Auditorium at 2 p.m.

Band and ensemble concerts are free and open to the public. For information, call 252-328-6851.

CHOIRS

The **ECU Chamber Singers** are in concert at Peace Presbyterian Church in Winterville on Oct. 12 at 7:30 pm. The ECU University Chorale and Concert Choir performs Oct. 22, and the ECU Collegiate Choir takes the stage Nov. 26, both in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.

All concerts are free and open to the public.

FACULTY RECITALS

Fall ECU School of Music faculty recitals include Nicole Franklin, soprano, Sept. 17; Faculty Brass Concert, Oct. 1; Jarrod Williams, tuba, Oct. 26; Faculty Chamber Recital, Oct. 29; and Christine Gustafson, flute, Nov. 12.

All faculty recitals are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m., are free and open to the public and include a post-recital reception. For information, call 252-328-6851.

GUEST ARTISTS

Two tuba guest artists perform at the School of Music in fall 2018 — **Tom Holtz** on Sept. 16 and **Seth Horner** on Nov. 6.

Recently retired from his position as a tubist with the United States Marine Band, Holtz is a freelance performer in classical and jazz venues across the mid-Atlantic region. He will be joined by ECU faculty members for a concert of traditional jazz.

Horner joined the North Carolina Symphony in 2017 as principal tuba. Previously, Horner was acting principal tuba of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra for three seasons and held faculty appointments teaching tuba and euphonium at Towson University and the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University.

The School of Music celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month this fall with three guest artist recitals: guitarist **Adam Kossler** on Sept. 18; the **North Carolina Guitar Quartet** on Sept. 26;



and **Duo Guitiano**, featuring guitarist Carlos Castilla and pianist Amanda Virelles, on Oct. 2. The concert series features composed and arranged guitar music of vibrancy and intensity by Spanish and Latin American composers. The works draw on the diverse cultural influences of Spanish and Latin styles.

All guest artist recitals are in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For information, call 252-328-6851.

EXHIBITS

The **Wellington B. Gray Gallery in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center** presents the Keaton and Umberger Gala Art Auction and Sale of fine art, crafts and decorative pieces Sept. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. The evening features the auction and sale and hors d'oeuvres and beverages from local establishments. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling 252-328-1268 by Sept. 14. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships and programs at the School of Art and Design.

The Beyond Ornament and ECU Metals exhibition will be presented Jan. 7-Feb. 15, with a First Friday reception Feb. 1 from 5-8 p.m. Beyond Ornament is a major survey exhibition highlighting North Carolina makers of studio jewelry. The artists selected for the exhibition produce objects that enhance and embellish the human body and also question what jewelry and ornament can be.

Two associated exhibitions will take place during Beyond Ornament — Cadavre Exquis will explore the role of collaboration in jewelry design, and ECU Metals will showcase teachers and students

from the university's master of fine arts in art with a concentration in metal design in the School of Art and Design graduate metals program.

Other Gray Gallery exhibitions include the Undergraduate Exhibition Oct. 5-20, reception Oct. 5; the MFA Exhibition Nov. 2-26, reception Nov. 2; and the BFA Group Exhibition Dec. 5-14, reception Dec. 7. Details are at ecu.edu/graygallery.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays noon-4 p.m. Admission is free. The gallery is closed for all university holidays. For more information, call 252-328-1312.

BEYOND
Ornament



Horizons

CHANGING LIVES,

CHANGING COMMUNITIES



Jennifer McMains

Research

I've been working in Dr. Johanna Hannan's urology lab for the past two years. One of our research areas focuses on the adverse effects of prostate cancer treatments, specifically on the nerves. Damage to nerves during treatments can lead to bladder and sexual dysfunction. These issues can severely impact the quality of life for men once the cancer is gone.

I was very excited to become involved in research, although I was nervous about getting into it as a younger student. I've learned so much, from lab skills to how to write scientifically. The work is very satisfying because we're moving this research forward. I believe medical research is the future of medicine. It truly helps others on a broader scale.

Philanthropy and service

I'm passionate about service. It kind of becomes an addiction; once you do it once, you want to do it more and more. And without others' philanthropy, we wouldn't be able to fund our research and improve the quality of life for cancer survivors.

Hometown: Raleigh

Year: Junior, public health studies major in the Honors College

Career goals: Attend Brody School of Medicine and become a doctor

Support the Honors College

As the student population of the Honors College grows, there is a strong need for additional funds to support the living-learning experiences, academic priorities and study abroad. For more information about how to support the college, contact Nate Evans, Honors College senior advancement officer, at 252-737-5232 or evansna@ecu.edu.

ecu.edu/give



LECTURE SERIES

RECEIVES

ENDOWMENT

From left, Harvey Wooten, oceanographer Robert Ballard and Vik Sexton are shown during Ballard's visit to ECU last fall as part of the Voyages of Discovery Series.

Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Colson Whitehead, underwater explorer Jean-Michael Cousteau, primatologist Jane Goodall and astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson have come to East Carolina University to share their unique perspectives, and such luminaries will continue to be a staple thanks to an endowment for the Voyages of Discovery Series.

The Ms. Harvey S. Wooten Voyages of Discovery Endowment is the first endowment for the series. Wooten is

one of the founding members of the Harriot College Dean's Advancement Council and has been involved in the series since its beginning.

"I just feel so strongly about this lecture series," she said. "It's a way to bring intellectual stimulus to the university and the community with big names that might not ever come here otherwise."

Humanitarians, authors, activists and astronauts have been featured since the Harriot College established the series in 2007.

Wooten, a Kinston native, has lived in Greenville for nearly 40 years. She served as the co-chair of the THCAS Advancement Council for 10 years. She has provided generous funding for the college and established the Harvey Sharp Wooten Study Abroad Scholarship and the Harvey Wooten Social Sciences Scholarship.

"Harvey Wooten is, without match, our most loyal and generous supporter of the Voyages of Discovery Series," said Harriot College Dean William M. Downs. "For years, she has contributed funds that have enabled Harriot College to bring some of the world's foremost scientists, authors, policymakers and world-changers to Greenville. By creating the Wooten Endowment, she has laid a solid foundation for the series' future."

Wooten said she never misses a lecture. Her favorites over the years include paleoanthropologist Richard Leakey, writer and journalist Walter Isaacson and Tyson. Above all, Wooten said, she hopes the endowment will bring more attention to the series and encourage more people to give to it.

– Erin Shaw

GIFT FUNDS FACULTY POSITIONS

IN HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY

East Carolina University and Vidant Health have partnered to create two senior faculty positions in the Division of Hematology and Oncology at the Brody School of Medicine. The positions are being funded by a gift to the Vidant Cancer Care campaign by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnhill Jr. of Tarboro.

The professorships will be named the Barnhill Family Distinguished Professorship and the Robert and Penny Barnhill Distinguished Professorship. Vidant and ECU will determine the timing of the creation of the positions as well as tenure status, compensation, responsibilities and candidate selection.

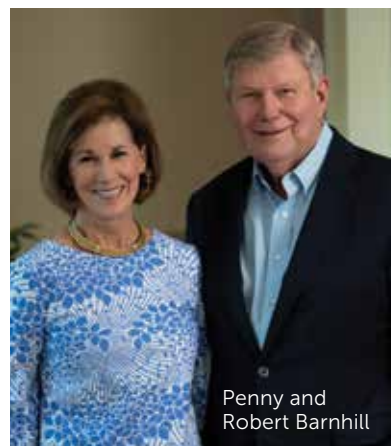
"We've all been touched by cancer in one way or another," said Dr. Mark Stacy, dean of the medical school. "We're grateful to the Barnhills for their generous contribution to battling

this disease that creates an especially heavy burden on our part of the state. This gift creates new opportunities to explore and advance the way we deliver oncology care here."

Barnhill, a native of Edgecombe County, graduated from ECU in 1970 with a degree in business administration. His family's company, Barnhill Contracting, was founded in 1949 and is headquartered in Rocky Mount.

"We are passionate about giving back to the community within which we work and live," he said. "It is our hope that we can continue to support medical research and health care initiatives in eastern North Carolina with this gift."

"The Brody School of Medicine and Vidant are leaders in providing skilled doctors and essential care to eastern North Carolinians," said ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton. "That commitment to health and service continues with these



professorships made possible by the generosity of the Barnhills. It is a gift that will inspire faculty to push the frontiers of their scholarship and research as well as prepare students to follow their path as successful physicians."

– ECU News Services

HOME COMING

Oct. 20,
2018



Pirate Doughnut Party and homecoming parade

Oct. 20, 8 a.m.

Join us at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center to watch the parade. See PeeDee, the Marching Pirates and other bands, ECU cheerleaders, student organization floats, the homecoming court and Alumni Award recipients. Also enjoy various Pirate-themed doughnuts provided by sponsor Krispy Kreme. The Pirate Doughnut Party starts at 8 a.m. followed by the parade at 9 a.m.

Pirate game-day tailgate

Oct. 20, three hours before kick-off

Join fellow alumni and fans at ECU's Johnson Stadium for tailgating fun before the homecoming football game against UCF. Enjoy a variety of food, beverages, music, door prizes and more. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/tailgate.

The Black Alumni Chapter of the ECU Alumni Association

presents the 2018 Black Alumni Reunion. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/2018BAR.

Marching Pirates Alumni Reunion

Join fellow former band members for a weekend of fun, music and football. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/MPReunion.

Golden Graduates Reunion

for 1967 and 1968 alumni and friends as well as all Pirates who have achieved their Golden Graduate status. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/GGR.

Dowdy Student Stores homecoming celebration and sale

Oct. 18-20

Dowdy Student Store, Wright Building. Sale prices throughout the store. Alumni,

show us your class ring and we'll give you 1 percent off your regularly priced purchase for each year since graduation, up to 30 percent off regular prices. Enter our drawing for a tailgate tent, and show your Pirate Pride in our selfie-station photo booth Saturday. More information is at studentstores.ecu.edu and on Instagram and Twitter.

Homecoming canned food drive

Oct. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina
Contact homecoming@ecu.edu or 252-737-1808.

Homecoming Pep Rally at Freeboot Friday

Oct. 19, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Greenville.

Free, contact homecoming@ecu.edu or 252-737-1808.

COLLEGE, SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT EVENTS

College of Allied Health Sciences

Homecoming tailgate

Oct. 20, three hours before kickoff

Free, location TBD

RSVP by Oct. 1

Alyssa De Santis Figiel,
desantisa14@ecu.edu

College of Fine Arts and Communication

Four Seasons Next Generation Concert

Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

A.J. Fletcher Music Center

Free, contact John Holloway,
252-328-6019 or hollowayjo14@ecu.edu

College of Education

Breakfast on the porch

Oct. 20, 8:30-10 a.m.

Speight Building Porch

Free, no RSVP

Lisa Marie Hagen, hagenl@ecu.edu

College of Health and Human Performance

Homecoming breakfast

Oct. 20, 8 a.m., Tent in front of Rivers Building (Fifth Street side)
Free, RSVP by Oct. 8
Kathy Muse, musek@ecu.edu

College of Nursing

Homecoming festivities

(Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres served)
Oct. 19, 5–7 p.m.
College of Nursing front lobby
Free, RSVP by Oct. 1
Jane Boardman, boardmanj@ecu.edu or 252-744-6504

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Homecoming breakfast

Oct. 20, 8 a.m.
Lawn beside Whichard Building facing Fifth Street
Free, RSVP by Oct. 12.
Jessica Nottingham, thcas@ecu.edu or 252-737-1753

Honors College

College Fall Festival

Oct. 19, 4–8 p.m., Brock's Farm, 862 Laurie Ellis Road, Winterville
Free, RSVP by Oct. 5
honorscollege@ecu.edu or 252-328-6373

Biology

Homecoming Biology Nerd Nite

Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
Tapped, 650 E. Fire Tower Road, Winterville
Free, contact Chris Balakrishnan, balakrishnanc@ecu.edu

Department of Chemistry

Homecoming celebration

Oct. 19, 5 p.m.
Science and Technology Building third floor atrium area
Cost TBD, RSVP by Oct. 1

Department of Criminal Justice

Alumni reception & tailgate

Oct. 20; time/location TBD
Free, contact Bradley Fornes, forneseb17@ecu.edu or 252-328-4192

GREEK EVENTS

NPHC Step Show

Oct. 19, 7 p.m., cost TBD
Wright Auditorium
Dorothea Mack, mackd@ecu.edu or 252-328-4235

OTHER

Volleyball alumni reunion

Oct. 20 alumni game at 10 a.m. and tailgating afterward
RSVP by Oct. 1
Mo Simmons, simmons18@ecu.edu or 252-737-1589

Career Services homecoming parade watch

Oct. 20, 9–11 a.m.
Career Services house on Fifth Street
Karen Franklin, 252-328-6050

Blackbeard 300 exhibit viewing and family open house

Oct. 20, 10 a.m., Joyner Library
Enjoy refreshments and free kids activities including story time and face painting.

ECU volleyball

Football isn't the only game in town homecoming weekend. ECU volleyball is also in action in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

ECU vs. UCF

Oct. 19, 7 p.m.

ECU vs. USF

Oct. 21, noon

Adults \$6, age 12 and under \$3
800-DIAL-ECU or ECUPirates.com

2018 Alumni Award Recipients

The following Pirates will be recognized Oct. 19 at the Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner and during halftime of the Oct. 20 homecoming football game.

Danny Scott '84 of Swansea, Illinois, spent a 30-year career in corporate business at Anheuser-Busch, Monsanto and Nabisco before co-founding the specialty food company All-N-Food LLC in 2011. He also served on the ECU board of trustees for eight years.

Austin Bunch (posthumous) served as assistant to three chancellors, an adjunct assistant professor in the College of Education, and associate provost and senior associate provost.

Dr. Kodi Azari '97 of Pacific Palisades, California, is professor of orthopedic surgery and plastic surgery and surgical director of the hand-transplant program at UCLA Health.

Lt. Commander Kathleen Ferguson '07 of Atlanta is a quality-assurance specialist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Charles Jenkins '66 '67 of Laurinburg is a clinical professor/professor emeritus of educational leadership at UNC-Pembroke, where he has worked in numerous roles for more than 47 years.

Tywana Lawson '07 '13 of La Grange is director of nursing programs at Nash Community College.

More information about the award recipients and their photos are at bit.ly/2NJDgSZ.

The alumni awards ceremony and dinner begin at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Greenville Convention Center. Alumni, friends and guests are welcome; advance registration is required. To be a sponsor or for general information, contact Shawn Moore '91 '98 at 252-328-5775 or mooresh@ecu.edu. More information is at www.PirateAlumni.com/APurpleGoldEvening.

The alumni association is accepting nominations for the 2019 Alumni Awards Nov. 1–Jan. 31. More information is at PirateAlumni.com/AwardsProcess.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

1930s

Ruth P. Linville '39 '52 of Kernersville, N.C., on June 12, 2018.

1940s

Rebecca Caison '47 of Clinton, N.C., on April 9, 2018.
Willie M. Currin '45 of Graham, N.C., on March 22, 2018.
Lallah B. Heath '42 of Stone Mountain, Ga., on Feb. 14, 2018.
Elizabeth High '46 of Cary, N.C., on April 11, 2018.
Camille J. Hite '45 of Greenville, N.C., on June 22, 2018.
Ruffin Manning '49 '59 of Fredericksburg, Va., on March 23, 2018.
Dorothy Mae Whitley Oldenburg '44 of Bonita Springs, Fla., on April 19, 2018.

1950s

Daphne Jilcott Askew '50 of Ahoskie, N.C., on Feb. 12, 2018.
Cleo Simons Beaman '51 of Snow Hill, N.C., on June 17, 2018.
Neil Grantham Bray '53 of Lumberton, N.C., on April 29, 2018.
Hattie Dietzel '56 of Issaquah, Wash., on March 27, 2018.
Frances Douglas '52 '65 of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., on May 9, 2018.
Thomas Edwards '59 of Raleigh, N.C., on June 24, 2018.
Joel Farrar '56 of Rock Hill, S.C., on April 23, 2018.
Elizabeth Carroll "Betsy" Gray '52 of Garner, N.C., on May 3, 2018.
William J. Hair '50 of Elizabethtown, N.C., on March 21, 2018.
Gene Marshall Hart '51 '58 of High Point, N.C., on April 22, 2018.
Howard "Buddy" Holcomb '56 of Marietta, Ga., on May 21, 2018.
Margaret McArthur Holcomb '53 of Marietta, Ga., on March 28, 2018.
William N. Howard Jr. '56 of Raleigh, N.C., on June 19, 2018.
Benjamin Thomas "Tom" James '59 of Rocky Mount, N.C., on May 23, 2018.
Norma Jean Jenkins '54 of Ashburn, Va., on Feb. 8, 2018.
Thomas R. Lupton '54 of Wilmington, N.C., on Feb. 22, 2018.
Bettie Carroll Massey '53 of High Point, N.C., on May 15, 2018.
Alvin D. McArthur '50 of Farmville, N.C., on March 22, 2018.
James Piner '57 of Atlantic Beach, N.C., on March 27, 2018.
Robert Gilbert Stanley '53 of Whiteville, N.C., on May 20, 2018.
Lillian Hofler Swain '50 of Wilson, N.C., on May 2, 2018.
Ellis H. Townsend '51 of Wallace, N.C., on June 4, 2018.
William H. Weir '58 of Wilson, N.C., on May 16, 2018.

1960s

William Lloyd Barber '65 of Chicago, Ill., on April 20, 2018.
Jerry Barnette '68 of Estero, Fla., on Wednesday, April 25, 2018.
Marybeth Nichols Barris '63 of Venice, Fla., on Nov. 11, 2017.
Theodore W. "Ted" Beach '60 '63 of Savannah, Ga., on Feb. 21, 2018.
Laura Knight Cagle '62 of Carthage, N.C., on April 19, 2018.
Larry G. Carter '69 '81 of Madison, Va., on May 28, 2018.
Hubert A. Creech '65 of Goldsboro, N.C., on June 11, 2018.
Theodore Charles Entzminger '66 of Greenville, N.C., on April 25, 2018.
Dalton Finch Jr. '63 of Plymouth, N.C., on May 12, 2018.
Susan C. France '68 of Creedmoor, N.C., on Feb. 25, 2018.
Jerry P. Fulford '64 of Raleigh, N.C., on June 18, 2018.
Flora MacDonald Gammon '69 of Waynesville, N.C., on March 22, 2018.
James Ralph Ihrle '72 of Statesville, N.C., on May 10, 2018.
Emily C. Jones '65 of Snow Hill, N.C., on March 25, 2018.
Barbara Keller '65 of Manteo, N.C., on April 18, 2018.
James R. Knight Jr. '60 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 17, 2018.
Phillip Ellis Langford '66 of Clayton, N.C., on April 29, 2018.
Paul K. Lanning '66 of Supply, N.C., on June 1, 2018.
Eleanor Rodman May '66 of Washington, N.C., on March 29, 2018.
Lucile M. McIntyre '65 of Wilmington, N.C., on June 11, 2018.
Barbara J. Mobley '67 '75 of Robersonville, N.C., on March 2, 2018.
Elizabeth E. Morgan '66 of Sunbury, N.C., on March 31, 2018.
Peggy C. Pearce '64 of Franklin, Va., on May 27, 2018.
Herman L. Pusser '65 of West End, N.C., on June 16, 2018.
Lynda R. Robbins '67 of Alexandria, Va., on May 26, 2018.

James B. Smith Jr. '66 of Williamsburg, Va., on March 26, 2018.

Josephine B. Thomas '67 of Wilson, N.C., on June 11, 2018.
Joseph J. Thompson '66 of Fayetteville, N.C., on March 24, 2018.
Charles W. Wilkinson Jr. '63 of Oxford, N.C., on May 6, 2018.

1970s

Dorothy Brock Aydlett '73 of Elizabeth City, N.C. on June 7, 2018.
James R. Barnes Jr. '79 of Raleigh, N.C., on March 4, 2018.
Jack Donald Bateman '71 of Chesapeake, Va., on March 13, 2018.
Karen V. Bell '78 of Fleetwood, N.C., on May 11, 2018.
Harold "H.B." Bissett Jr. '70 of New Bern, N.C., on Feb. 19, 2018.
Carolyn Brown '71 of Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 22, 2018.
Katherine Knight Collins '75 of Rocky Mount, on April 29, 2018.
Robert E. Currin Jr. '74 of Newport News, Va., on Jan. 24, 2018.
Sylvia Daniel '76 of Huntersville, N.C., on June 19, 2018.
Pantice P. Fish '76 of Venice, Fla., on Feb. 13, 2018.
Claron G. Gibbons '71 of Logan, Utah, on Feb. 26, 2018.
Shelia J. Harrell '78 of Oak City, N.C., on June 18, 2018.
William H. Harrell '78 of Eure, N.C., on April 15, 2018.
Edward Hawes Jr. '70 of Richlands, N.C., on April 2, 2018.
Deborah E. Henderson '76 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 18, 2018.
George Benjamin "Ben" James '76 of Greenville, N.C., on April 5, 2018.
William E. Jones '73 of Kitty Hawk, N.C., on June 3, 2018.
Dorothy S. Kinlaw '78 of Raeford, N.C., on June 18, 2018.
Joan M. Kocen '70 of Solomons, Md., on March 12, 2018.
Susan B. Lawson '70 of Lewisville, N.C., on June 8, 2018.
Stewart Longacre Jr. '71 of Collegeville, Pa., on Feb. 28, 2018.
Beverly K. MacQueen '79 of Goldsboro, N.C., on Feb. 7, 2018.
Gary Elwood Miller '73 of Virginia Beach, Va., on May 13, 2018.
Wilson Ray Mazingo '73 of Raleigh, N.C., on May 12, 2018.
Allen H. Perry '72 of Morehead City, N.C., on March 20, 2018.
Thomas E. Price '75 of Portsmouth, Va., on Feb. 15, 2018.
Rhonda B. Raper '77 '78 of Greenville, N.C., on Feb. 13, 2018.
Frances Lee Reesman '72 of Trent Woods, N.C., on April 22, 2018.
Davey D. Sawyer '79 of Graham, N.C., on March 13, 2018.
Kathy Lane Williford '73 of Garner, N.C., on March 30, 2018.
Oliver H. Yancey Jr. '75 of Raleigh, N.C., on April 7, 2018.

1980s

Debra West Bailey '83 of Hickory, N.C., on May 23, 2018.
Brenda Pearsall Cayton '89 of Greenville, N.C., on March 28, 2018.
Charles Eatmon '82 of Ernul, N.C., on June 14, 2018.
Bret D. Lee '83 of Elizabethtown, N.C., on March 8, 2018.
Marcy M. Moore '86 of Cary, N.C., on Feb. 9, 2018.
Priscilla K. Murphy '81 of Beaufort, N.C., on Feb. 11, 2018.
Mabel James Perry '81 '88 of Bethel, N.C., on May 22, 2018.
Paula Stokes Qualliotine '85 of Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 19, 2018.
Milbrey C. Starnes '80 of Hillsborough, N.C., on May 15, 2018.
William Henry Taylor Jr. '81 of Greensboro, N.C., on April 25, 2018.
Bruce Thompson '82 of Conway, S.C., on May 3, 2018.
Kay Fish Toombs '89 of Disputanta, Va., on April 30, 2018.
Warren H. Vestal '82 of Walnut Cove, N.C., on May 1, 2018.

1990s

Eric Bailey '91 '00 of Southport, N.C., on March 18, 2018.
Lawrence E. Cherry Jr. '94 of Elizabeth City, N.C., on June 7, 2018.
Fred Corbin '92 of La Grange, N.C., on May 11, 2018.
Eloise Kennedy Cullen '91 of Morehead City, N.C., on May 9, 2018.
Betty Clarke Harris '94 of Bath, N.C., on April 14, 2018.
William Carlton Harrison '92 of Biloxi, Miss., on June 13, 2018.
Marjorie R. Holmes '90 '95 of Greenville, N.C., on March 17, 2018.
Christopher Raynard Johnson '96 of High Point, N.C., on Feb. 20, 2018.
Kevin Wayne Lowery '97 of Mount Pleasant, S.C., on May 15, 2018.
Walter T. Rampersaud '91 of Alexandria, Va., on May 12, 2018.
Jeffrey Thomas Smith '90 of Wilson, N.C., on April 26, 2018.



Rochelle Jackson

Pope '25 of Dunn died April 14, 2018.

She was 110 and likely the oldest alumnus of East Carolina at the time of her death. She taught and served as a principal in Harnett and Sampson counties.

2000s

Brian N. Babyak '09 of Jamestown, N.C., on June 9, 2018.
James A. Bullard '06 of Rocky Mount, N.C., on Feb. 26, 2018.
Kristin M. Day '06 of New Bern, N.C., on Feb. 7, 2018.
John W. Harrawood '08 of Greenville, N.C., on Feb. 17, 2018.
Mark Jeffrey Larson '02 of Orlando, Fla., on April 16, 2018.
Sean M. McLaughlin '07 of Concord, N.C., on June 23, 2018.
Bradford "Stephen" Quinn '06 of Pacolet, S.C., on May 9, 2018.
James Christopher Rogers '06 of Jamesville, N.C., on April 2, 2018.
Mark Steven Wheeler '01 of Stoughton, Wis., on April 15, 2018.

2010s

Nickolas S. Nosbisch '11 of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., on June 8, 2018.
Adam Toohey '12 of Norman, Okla., on April 15, 2008.
Ted Underwood '14 of Fayetteville, N.C., on May 20, 2018.

STUDENTS

Jennifer Ervin of China Grove, N.C., on Feb. 24, 2018.
Amanda L. Gibbons of Wake Forest, N.C. on Nov. 3, 2017.
Michael Richard Harrold of Winston Salem, N.C. on March 22, 2018.
Stephanie D. Honeycutt of Clayton, N.C., on June 5, 2018.
Caleb Louis Mehlman of Raleigh, N.C. on Dec. 19, 2017.
Tracy Manning Moore of Williamston, N.C., on Jan. 28, 2018.

FACULTY/STAFF

Simon Baker (geography) of Greensboro, N.C., on May 9, 2018.
Anita Brehm (education) of Greenville, N.C., on June 21, 2018.
Anne Donovan (athletics) of Wilmington, N.C., on June 13, 2018.
Daryl Guffey (accounting) of Anderson, S.C., on May 5, 2018.
Joyce Helms (student fund acct. ofc.) of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., on June 24, 2018.
Richard Henton (art) of Columbus, Ga., on May 31, 2018.
Otis K. Karr Jr. (athletics) of Pickens, S.C., on March 11, 2018.
Donald R. Lennon '60 '61 (Joyner Library) of Greenville, N.C., on April 26, 2018.
Leslie Paul "Ty" Moore (facilities) of Greenville, N.C., on June 22, 2018.
Robert S. Moye (ITCS) of Greenville, N.C., on June 6, 2018.
William M. Phillips (facilities) of Baltimore, Md., on May 4, 2018.
Lawrence Stanley "Stan" Harris (pathology) of Studio City, Calif., on May 1, 2018.
Carl Jacob Twarog (art) of Greenville, N.C., on May 29, 2018.
Alvin Volkman (pathology) of Greenville, N.C., on April 11, 2018.
Odell Welborn (health and physical education) of Greenville, N.C., on May 10, 2018.



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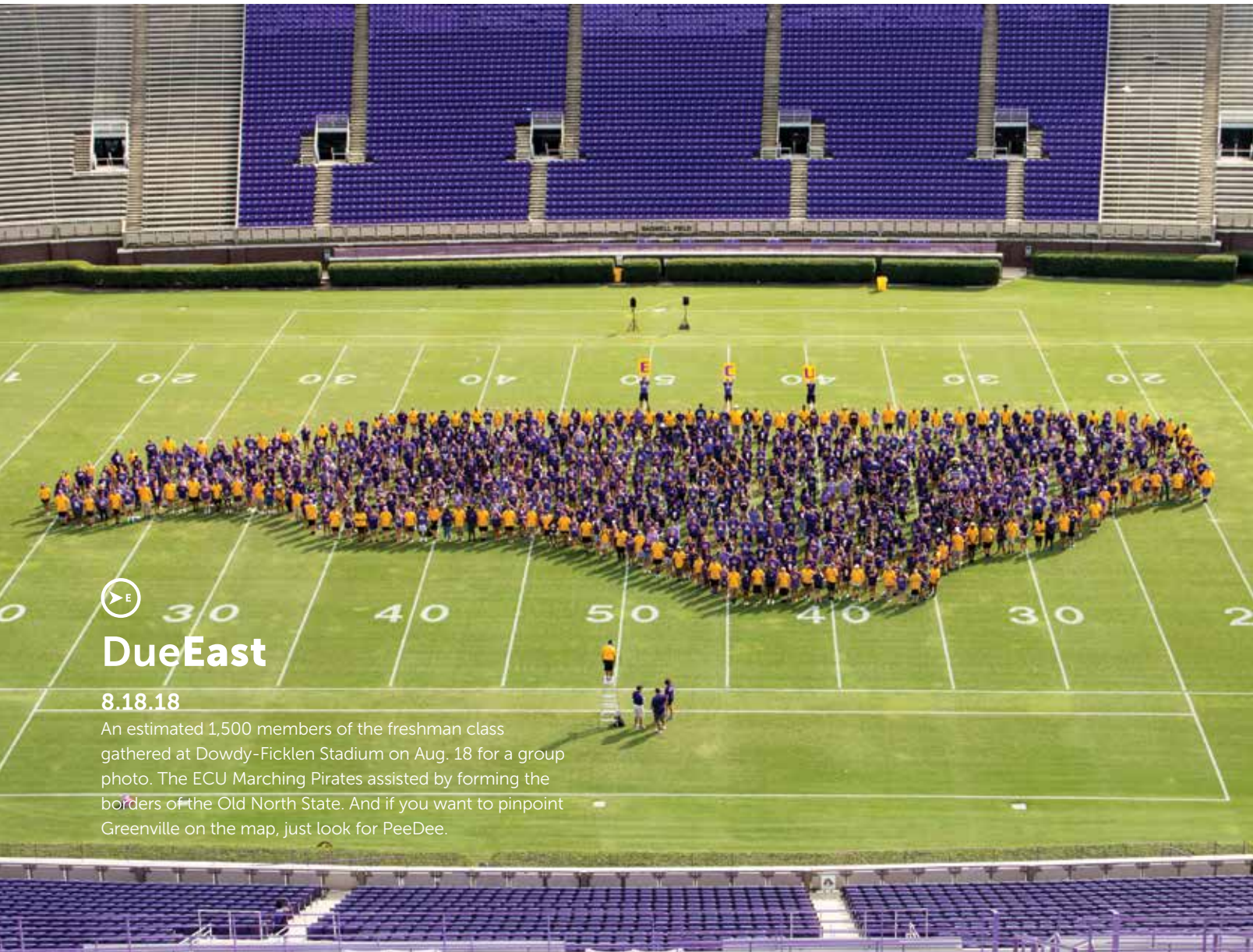
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DueEast

8.18.18

An estimated 1,500 members of the freshman class gathered at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Aug. 18 for a group photo. The ECU Marching Pirates assisted by forming the borders of the Old North State. And if you want to pinpoint Greenville on the map, just look for PeeDee.