

X-Labs revolutionize
science education

ECU LEADS
TELEPSYCH NETWORK

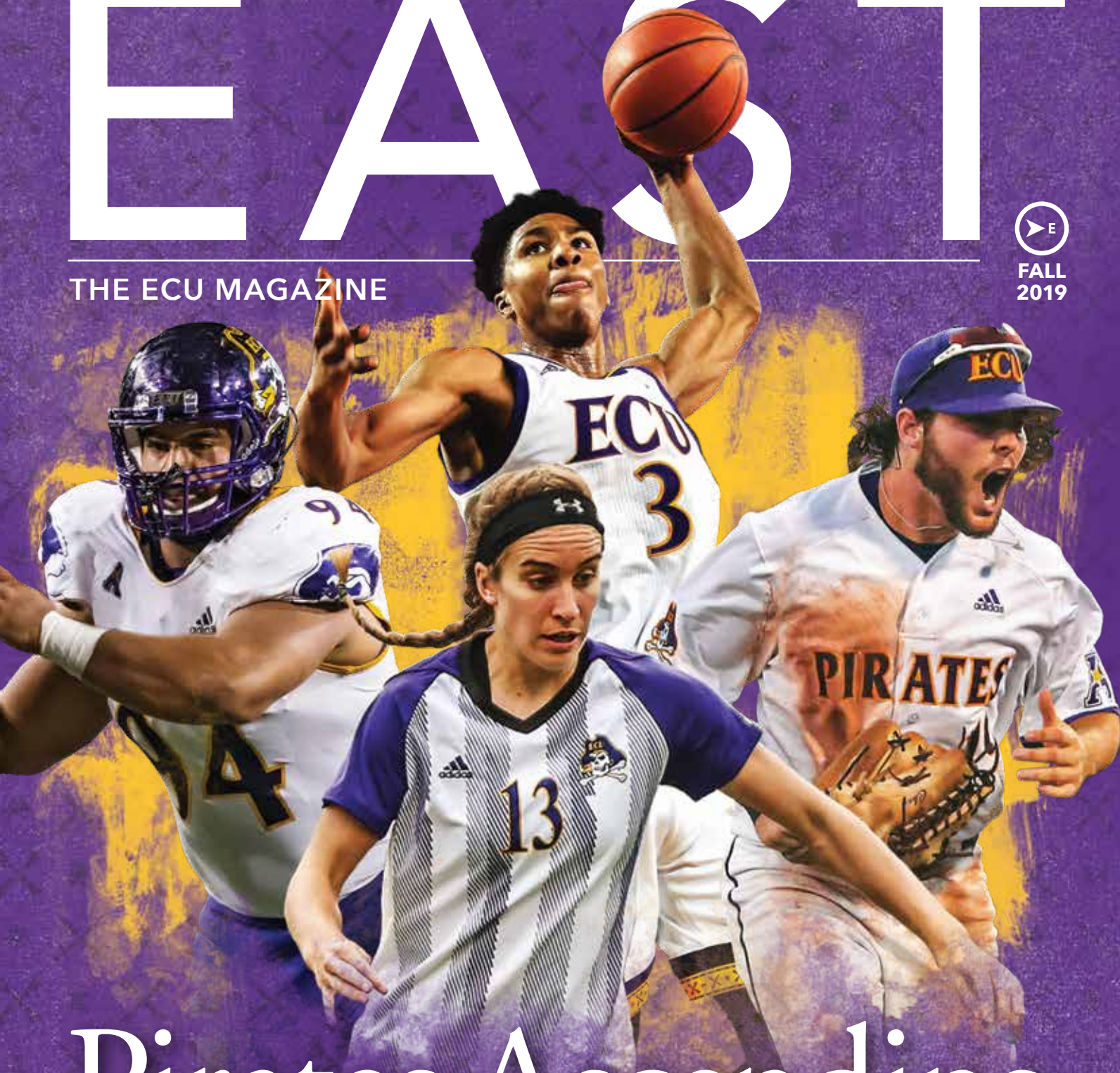
Campus and research
news, faculty and alumni
interviews and more

EAST

THE ECU MAGAZINE



FALL
2019



Pirates Ascending

ATHLETICALLY AND ACADEMICALLY,
ECU SPORTS STRIVE FOR THE TOP



Brent Carpenter waterskis during the College of Health and Human Performance's Adaptive Watersports Day in Washington on Aug. 31. The college has been hosting people with illnesses and disabilities for a day on the water for 19 years. This year, about 30 people participated.



UNC System Interim President Bill Roper looks on as Dr. Sy Saeed makes comments upon receiving the 2019 O. Max Gardner Award, the system's highest faculty honor. Read more about Dr. Saeed and his work with telepsychiatry on page 28.

EAST

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More coverage including links to videos and more photos is at east.ecu.edu

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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. ©2019 by East Carolina University



View from Spilman

Engage and succeed

One of the joys of serving as interim chancellor has been welcoming a new group of freshmen during first-year orientation sessions this summer and at move-in.

We have 4,366 freshmen at ECU this fall, and during orientation I encouraged them to be grateful, engaged, proud, passionate and confident – and most of all – to be themselves.

We recruit and attract faculty, staff and students from all over our region, state, nation and world. Each individual makes our university stronger. It allows us to learn more and learn better.

At faculty convocation, I shared my priorities for the coming year and encouraged faculty to focus on research and internship opportunities for students – things that will give our students an advantage when they graduate and compete in the workforce or graduate school.

In turn, we need our students to become engaged so they can achieve success. There's no room in Pirate Nation for people who just sit around. We're proud of everything we are – be it our nationally ranked baseball team, our faculty who win prestigious state and national awards, or our highly ranked academic programs. And we do it with passion.

In this issue of *East*, we will spotlight some of our passions, from the classroom to the playing field.

Here's to a great year in Pirate Nation.

Dan Gerlach
Interim Chancellor

Welcome back!

As members of the class of 2023 walked into Minges Coliseum for convocation Aug. 18, they were handed small buttons with one very important word: Connect.

Connecting and making the most of opportunities available at East Carolina University were consistent messages during events held the weekend before the start of the academic year.

Some 4,366 freshmen were among approximately 28,650 total students who started class Aug. 19. More than 5,700 students moved into residence halls for the 2019-20 year.

Athletic director Jon Gilbert and ECU head coaches opened convocation by introducing new students to football traditions such as No Quarter, Jolly Roger and the Boneyard. And football coach Mike Houston, who is leading the Pirates for his first season this fall, had a message for students.

"Game day here at ECU – there's a lot of traditions – and one of the ones I can't wait to experience is our students in the Boneyard," he said. "We need your help on game day to make that... the loudest, most intimidating room in the entire stadium. You're going to set the tone for game day."

Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy welcomed students and drove home the importance of "finding your family" at ECU and being engaged with faculty and staff.

"How will you invest in yourself? What will your legacy be when you leave this wonderful institution of higher learning? And remember, we're all here to help you grow and to make wise choices as you invest in yourself and in your future," said Hardy.

Following move-in, students had a chance to get to know campus and new friends during Pirate Weeks of Welcome. Events kicked off Aug. 15 with movie night and Raid the Rec on Aug. 16.

On Aug. 17, students and community members attended the 25th annual Meet the Pirates event at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, which included a tour of the new TowneBank Tower addition to Bagwell Field. The \$60 million southside renovation added 1,000 premium seats.

Later, students participated in ECU's largest welcome back event, Pirate Palooza, in the Main Campus Student Center. Gerlach joined staff and volunteers in passing out T-shirts while students participated in games and enjoyed entertainment, music, trivia, laser tag and free food.

– *Jamie Smith*



New students learn Pirate football traditions at convocation Aug. 18.



The Marching Pirates welcome students at convocation.



Students walk across campus on the first day of fall classes at ECU.

ECU graduates feel better prepared than most, survey finds

► East Carolina University graduates are well prepared for life after graduation, actively engaged at work and feel their education was worth the cost, a recent Gallup survey found.

ECU was included in a far-reaching alumni survey of the University of North Carolina System that assessed how graduates from North Carolina's public universities fared after graduation. More than 5,000 ECU alumni participated in the survey. The survey assessed alumni's perceptions of their university experiences and how those experiences related to their well-being and job quality later in life. Gallup presented the results to the UNC Board of Governors in May.

Results from the survey were compared with three groups from Gallup's national alumni surveys of those who obtained their degrees between 1940 and 2016. UNC System alumni were compared to Gallup's samples of U.S. college graduates nationally, graduates of public institutions, and graduates of private institutions.

According to the survey, UNC System alumni were more likely to pursue advanced degrees, feel a sense of attachment to their alma mater and report higher levels of well-being than college alumni nationally. ECU's results are on par with the UNC System's and outpaced national comparisons in many categories.

– Erin Shaw

Among the key findings pertaining to ECU:



Overall, ECU alumni surveyed showed higher levels of engagement in the workplace than undergraduate alumni nationally.



More ECU alumni (41%) said they were well prepared for life after graduation than college alumni nationally (29%).



A majority of ECU alumni (60%) strongly agreed their undergraduate education was worth the cost; this figure is 10 percentage points above national comparison groups.



ECU alumni reported higher well-being than national groups; this holds true across all five areas for measuring well-being (purpose, social, financial, community and physical).

Complete survey results are at bit.ly/322TUDI.



New hives, habitat become home for ECU bees

ECU's Health Sciences Campus has about 20,000 new residents following the installation this spring of two hives of western honeybees near the lake.

Chad Carwein, ECU sustainability manager, said the project is part of the university's response to the global issue of declining bee colonies.

"Colony collapse disorder has killed about 50% of bee colonies worldwide in the last 10 years, and we're trying to establish these hives because, when it gets down to it, one out of every three bites of food is pollinated by a bee," he said.

On May 20, Will Johnson of All American Bee Company in New Bern transported the bees to campus and, with the help of Karen Mulcahy, teaching associate professor of geography, and retired ECU staff member Dale Aycock, transferred them to the new hives. After the queen is moved, the rest of the bees follow, Johnson said.

"Right now, they are flying around and orienting themselves," Mulcahy said. "Eventually they will fly up to 1 to 2 miles in search of pollen and water."

In addition to the hives, grounds crews have installed native plant species favorable for bees and other pollinators. Largely as a result of those efforts,

in July, ECU was certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program. ECU joins more than 150 other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators.

"This project will continue to evolve," Carwein said. "This is just our first installation of hives. We're looking at potential locations on both campuses to put in more hives in the future."

— Jules Norwood



From left, Will Johnson of All American Bee Company in New Bern and Dale Aycock, a retired ECU staff member, prepare beehives for installation on the Health Sciences Campus on May 20.

ECU raises \$52.3 million in 2018-19

Between July 1, 2018, and June 30 of this year ECU alumni, friends, faculty and other supporters committed \$52.3 million to the university, surpassing last year's fundraising by nearly \$10 million.

The fundraising total comprises \$25.7 million for Main Campus, \$18.6 million for athletics and \$8 million for the Health Sciences Campus.

Fundraising was bolstered by a successful Pirate Nation Gives, a day focused on philanthropy and engagement that raised more than \$800,000 in 24 hours. Among the gifts were \$100,000 to be split between athletics and the Honors College, and a \$500,000 gift for the college STEPP Program (Supporting Transitions and Education through Planning and Partnerships), which supports students with learning disabilities.

The university also received an anonymous \$5 million gift to the BB&T Center for Leadership Development. Travis and Cassie Burt created a professorship in cardiovascular sciences

after Dr. Mark Williams, a cardiothoracic surgeon and professor at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU, performed a successful triple bypass surgery on Travis Burt. James and Connie Maynard and their daughter Easter gave \$1 million to create 1,000 scholarships of \$1,000.

The Golden LEAF Foundation gave \$1 million to support rural economic prosperity through innovation and entrepreneurship. Wells Fargo gave \$100,000 for equipment to launch an advanced manufacturing lab in the College of Engineering and Technology, and TowneBank committed \$3 million to the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Southside Renovation Project.

More information on how to support ECU's mission is at ecu.edu/give.

— Erin Shaw

Students build Arctic snow sensor

Changes seen in the Arctic climate have an impact on the frequency and intensity of hurricanes experienced in eastern North Carolina.

That is why Dan Dickerson, an ECU science education professor and STEM CoRE coordinator, traveled to Utqiagvik – the northernmost city in Alaska – March 30 through April 6 to help researchers collect data and test a snow sensor prototype developed by ECU engineering students.

Dickerson and a small team of researchers from Old Dominion University, the University of Washington and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration braved temperatures as low as minus-15 degrees Fahrenheit to deploy sensors to measure everything from melting snow to the conditions in the atmosphere in an effort to better understand the changing climate. The information will help scientists with weather forecasting and modeling.

He said the most rewarding part of the trip was when the snow sensor light came on and data started rolling in. The engineering students had taken Dickerson's idea and made it into a sensor that measures melting snow atop and beneath the snow. The data it collects will be combined with information from other types of sensors to give a more complete picture of how quickly snow and ice are breaking apart.

Now that Dickerson has seen firsthand what the conditions are like, students can design a new sensor better suited for the environment; for example, making one that's easier to adjust with thick gloves on and masking it from bears that might mistake the sensor for a toy.

NBC "Today" show meteorologist Al Roker was also there and interviewed team members for live segments dealing with climate change and how it is affecting residents of the northernmost city in the United States.

Dickerson hopes to go on another trip to an area where he can deploy the updated version of the sensors. In the meantime, he said the success of this collaboration will lead to more work in the area of climate change.

– Jamie Smith



Dan Dickerson (far right) helps NBC's Al Roker lower a buoy into the ice with Victoria Hill of Old Dominion University.

\$4 million grant to support engineering students

► The ECU College of Engineering and Technology has received a \$4 million grant from the National Science Foundation Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program in an effort to support low-income students pursuing undergraduate engineering degrees.

The grant will provide scholarships to 80 students total — 40 beginning in the fall semester of 2020 and 40 more in the fall of 2021. Half of each cohort will begin as freshmen at ECU, while the other half will be distributed among three community college partners — Pitt Community College, Lenoir Community College and Wayne Community College. Those students will complete their first two years of study at their respective community colleges with the intention to transfer to ECU to complete their degrees.

ECU students with demonstrated financial need will be eligible for up to \$10,000 per year, while community college students can receive up to \$3,000 per year.

The program is called Providing Inclusive Residential and Transfer Experience Scholarships in Engineering. It establishes a consortium among ECU and the community colleges with the common goal of supporting low-income students not only with scholarships, but also with high-impact practices such as faculty interaction, mentoring, tutoring, job-shadowing opportunities, career counseling, professional networking, extracurricular activities and team building.

One goal is to understand barriers that exist for low-income college students and the best practices to help students overcome those barriers. Another goal is to build relationships between community college students and university students and faculty before the community college students matriculate to ECU. The aim is to improve persistence into a four-year degree program, increase retention in the two-year and four-year degree programs and lead to improved educational outcomes for community college transfer students.

– Ken Buday

Wieland's newest novel makes Oprah's 'Best of' list

What happened to the 20th century poet Elizabeth Bishop during three life-changing weeks she spent in Paris amidst the imminent threat of World War II?

The answer is what Liza Wieland visualizes in her novel "Paris, 7 A.M.," which was named to Oprah's reading list as "One of the Best Books by Women of Summer 2019."

Simon & Schuster published the book in June, and it has enjoyed acclaim and gained recognition from *Publishers Weekly*, *LitHub*, *The Millions*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *The News & Observer* and the BBC.

"I've long been interested in Elizabeth Bishop ever since I didn't get to have her as a teacher in college," said Wieland, distinguished professor of English at ECU, "and really feel like I've had to work at the poems. They don't come easily to me in terms of their meaning, but they reward the work."

A reviewer for *Publishers Weekly* wrote, "Wieland makes scrupulous use of known fact in crafting her fictional narrative, but neither rehashes familiar biography nor attempts literal interpretations of Bishop's poems or life."

Asked about the book receiving so much early attention, Wieland said: "It feels great. It's a little daunting. I came to know what the New York publication scene looks like with this book, which is that somewhere between 20 to 40 books are released every Tuesday by publishers. So, new releases get



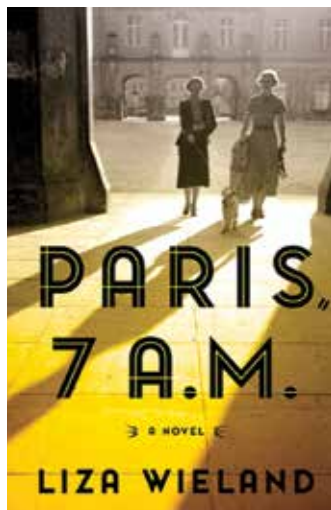
swallowed up pretty fast, and one only has the attention of one's publicist for a few weeks."

Wieland, who worked on the novel for about four years and spent the past two years with Simon & Schuster perfecting it, assisted in its promotion by using social media to announce the launch.

She said the genre they marketed the book in – historical fiction – helped catch readers' attention.

"Historical fiction is extremely popular," Wieland said, "and books set during, before and after World War II hold a huge attraction for readers."

The author of eight works of fiction and a volume of poems, Wieland has received fellowships from the National Endowment



for the Arts, the Christopher Isherwood Foundation and the North Carolina Arts Council. She is the 2017 winner of the Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. Her novel "A Watch of Nightingales" won the 2008 Michigan Literary Fiction Award, and her novel "Land of Enchantment" was a longlist finalist for the 2016 Chautauqua Prize.

More about "Paris, 7 A.M." is at bit.ly/346Le0S.

– Lacey Gray

Student Emily Kustka smiles as Liza Wieland leads a discussion of Elizabeth Bishop's poetry during a class at ECU. Wieland's latest novel explores a brief period of the American poet's life.

Community School addresses at-risk children's needs

► Meeting the needs of the whole child is a goal in public schools. This goal has become a reality at ECU's Community School, where a network of university and local partners provide the support elementary school students and their families need to be successful.

The Community School was established in 2016 by an N.C. General Assembly law requiring the UNC Board of Governors to improve student performance in low-performing areas by creating lab schools.

To fulfill this, the Community School implements wraparound services, which address not only academics but also the physical, social and emotional well-being of the child. Here's a snapshot of the student body:

- All transferred from a low-performing school.
- All were considered academically at-risk.
- 88% are considered at the federal poverty level.
- 12% qualify for exceptional children's services.

To address these students' needs, the staff is composed of five K-5 teachers, four teacher assistants, a special education director/coordinator, a full-time nurse, a full-time social worker, an administrative assistant and a principal.



Having a full-time nurse and social worker are crucial to the wraparound services. According to principal Tracy Cole, the social worker helps families who may experience food scarcity and issues with housing and clothing. The school nurse is able to help students with asthma learn how to manage their symptoms and use their equipment properly as well as help other students who have to take medication throughout the day.

A key part of the wraparound services is the biopsychosocial screenings the College of Health and Human Performance conducts with families before the school year begins. Screeners not only ask parents and guardians about experiences their children may have had but also about the parents' experiences. They found more than four out of five students have had at least one adverse childhood experience – abuse, neglect or other traumatic event. A quarter have had four or more ACEs.

“We have an idea of those things that have happened to our children or that they have experienced before they even walk through the door,” Cole said.



Top, Jeionni Jones talks with ECU Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach during Gerlach's tour of the Community School. Above, students stand during the school's first kindergarten graduation ceremony in June.



Kindergartner Jeionni Jones drew the picture on the left at the start of the school year. By the following spring, he was drawing detailed pictures and writing stories about them (picture on the right).

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Ms. Cole. She saw a tiger and she ran away! Then she came up with a plan to catch the tiger. She put some food out for the tiger and hid behind a rock. When the tiger came she jumped out and hit him up with a rope. She took him to the zoo. She named him Pecos.

Jeionni Jones 2024

The Community School also works with the College of Allied Health Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, the College of Nursing, the ECU Police Department, the College of Education and other departments at ECU.

Other participating organizations include Salem United Methodist Church, Hardee & Hardee law firm, Pitt County Schools and Pitt Community College.

The students are not the only ones the wraparound services target. Cole said she encourages the faculty and staff to talk with families. “It’s just something about that personal touch that people know that you care about them, that you really do have their best interest at heart,” she said. “I think the school name, the Community School, is very appropriate for what we’re doing.”

Having a significant impact on the community is one of the long-term goals Grant Hayes, dean of the College of Education, thinks is important.

“The Community School is a great site to provide exposure and training for teachers and principals to address challenges in high-needs schools,” he said. “The school also provides educational research and professional development opportunities.”

Once the basic needs of the students and their families have been met, the Community School works to expose their scholars to a world beyond their neighborhood. Students attended an ECU women’s basketball game, participated in a Chinese New Year celebration with a parade and visited the ECU campus to explore potential careers.

Cole and Hayes said the Community School has the potential to become a model for public school education.

“The Community School has provided a unique opportunity for College of Education faculty to design an innovative curriculum to improve student performance and to be used to determine best practices,” Hayes said.

The Community School operates within South Greenville Elementary School.

– Kristen Martin

Want to know what's on Chancellor Dan's mind? Just ask.

Since May 6, his first day as East Carolina University's interim chancellor, Dan Gerlach has covered a lot of ground. Literally. One summer day when he sat down for 15 minutes to talk about his new job, a hole was visible in one of his well-worn shoes.

Experienced with the state government budgeting process as well as leading a philanthropic organization, he was a shrewd if unexpected choice to lead ECU out of a budget hole, boost enrollment and build the university's image. And he doesn't need a script to tell people what he envisions for the university and his plan to get there.

How would you describe your first three months as interim chancellor?

My first three months at ECU have been a life-changing experience for me. What I appreciate the most is the support I've received from a broad range of people. It is a university that feels smaller than it is, even though we have so much to offer. The motto of *Servire* permeates the place.

How did leading the Golden LEAF Foundation prepare you for being interim chancellor?

One, I didn't need a map to get to Greenville. It allowed me to understand more fully that if ECU is not successful, the region will not be successful. It is that important of an asset in so many ways, not only in preparing the workforce for the future, not only providing top-quality research responsive to the needs of the region but providing a community rallying point. Leaving Golden LEAF, which has such an important mission, I wouldn't do that for just anything, and I think this opportunity is an incredible one.

What are your priorities for ECU?

My top priorities are one, making sure that we give the opportunity to as many people as possible to come to our university. The metric of that is growing enrollment at all levels. The second thing is we have some financial issues. We have to remedy that. We have to establish a better relationship with our partner hospital, in this case, Vidant, to help pay for some of those academic and research costs for an academic medical center, from which they benefit as well. Three is what are we going to do to help raise resources privately. And I think,



too, it's just calming, just to get things back to regular order. Whatever people believe about our recent past, I think people agree it's been a lot of volatility. I think we just need to calm things down. And so improve the reputation of the university. You come here and others don't speak for us and you see it for yourselves – it's a great time.

What else would you like to see ECU accomplish under your leadership?

Getting our graduation rates to continue to improve, figure out ways to better meet the needs and interests of students, and partnering with the K-12 and community college educational system to provide a pipeline for future citizens to be economically successful and live full and productive lives. One other thing I might mention is to have a strong presence in helping the economic development momentum of the region.

How long will it take for ECU to close its \$16 million budget gap?

We're going to plan to do it by July 1, 2020.

How would you describe the state of athletics at ECU?

People are enthused, hopeful. They are hopeful that something good will happen. They want to rally behind it. People have talked a lot about the kind of recruiting that coach Dooley's done, the excitement about Mike Houston, the continued excellence of Cliff Godwin, but I want to go see Kim McNeill's team play. That's what I want. I want to see that women's basketball team play, because I just think there's something special about her, and I just personally want to see that.

What do you want the people to think about when they hear "ECU" or "East Carolina University"?

I want them to think about access with excellence, the idea that we are open to a wide variety of students and that we give them a great experience. And what I want them to think about is we do a lot of things to give opportunities to students and also to serve regional needs.

How can students, faculty/staff and alumni help ECU accomplish what you envision for the university?

When I speak to the incoming class, I say we have some expectations of you. One of these things is to be engaged. I've tried to be engaged fully and be visible and be active in various things around campus with various groups to let them know they're appreciated. And so what I would say is to be engaged and to be loyal and bold to the principle of service that we espouse.



Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach's
priorities for **2019-2020**
ECU for

- Improve ECU's financial condition
- Increase enrollment
- Improve graduation rates and postsecondary outcomes
- Increase external funding
- Improve ECU's image



Jessica Ellis, an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology at the Brody School of Medicine, is studying a 'healthy' fatty acid for clues to its role in dementia.

Breakthrough nets dollars to study fatty acid role in preventing dementia

Neurodegenerative diseases – such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and ALS – are a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among older adults.

Consuming docosahexaenoic acid, an omega-3 fatty acid found in fish and fish oils, reduces the risk of these diseases. However, not much is known about how DHA gets to the brain and why taking fatty acid benefits some more than others.

Now, a breakthrough by ECU researcher Jessica Ellis shows a specific enzyme – Acyl-CoA synthetase 6 – is critical for enriching DHA in the brain.

“We set out targeting this enzyme, hoping to land where we actually landed,” said Ellis, an assistant professor in the Department of Physiology at the Brody School of Medicine. “Then we were like, ‘OK this is it, this is it, we found it. This is one of the main missing components.’”

The discovery – published by the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* last December – provides critical insight into brain DHA metabolism that could have broad health implications. And in June, the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina awarded Ellis \$100,000 to further her research.

“We’ve shown that the animals that lack this enzyme have various motor-related impairments, they have impairments in

memory and learning, and that they develop pathology in their brain over time, which is indicative of early onset aging,” said Ellis. “It seems DHA is critical for numerous biological functions within the brain that allow us to move properly, remember well and essentially age well.

“We’re proposing to take our model where we have less DHA and indicators of memory impairment to better understand the molecular mechanisms that are causing that and that can facilitate drug targeting, therapeutic targeting to try to prevent or alleviate dementia,” Ellis said.

Scientists have known the potential cognitive benefits of fish oils for some time, but they knew little about why or how it was effective for some people and not for others.

“All of these people are taking these supplements, but it’s not always super effective,” Ellis said. “Because there’s a lot of things that have to happen between our mouth and our brain, one of the things we were interested in understanding was what are the critical enzymes that allow that fat to get into the brain. So we discovered one of them, and it’s responsible for about 50 percent of the DHA that’s in the brain, which is a lot.”

– Rob Spahr

Sedition and whiskey: Students unearth tavern near Southport

► Decades before Americans fought taxes in the Whiskey Rebellion, colonists apparently drank whiskey and talked rebellion in a southeastern N.C. tavern ECU students uncovered this summer.

Last year at the ruins of Brunswick Town — a once-thriving colonial port burned by British soldiers in 1776 — ECU doctoral student Matt Harrup used ground-penetrating radar to discover the remains of the tavern on the west bank of the Cape Fear River off N.C. 133 between Wilmington and Southport.

The tavern was buried under 5 feet of earth on a spot of land that should have been empty, according to historic maps of the town. After ECU students on a summer field class excavated it, experts said the building probably burned down years before Brunswick Town proper, its walls caving in to seal artifacts from 1760s America.

“It’s something every archaeologist hopes to find,” Charles Ewen, an ECU professor of anthropology and project supervisor, told the *Raleigh News & Observer*. “It’s a snapshot in time. Everything there got trapped.”

Ewen said the artifacts are like a “time capsule” of the old port’s history, including a connection to early American resistance to royal rule: a glass cufflink, thought at first to be a pebble, etched with the words “Wilkes and Liberty 45.” Student Adam Pohlman found the piece of glass and smartly set it aside for further examination.



Drone footage shows ECU students working at the Brunswick Town dig site as onlookers observe.



Above are the Wilkes cufflink and a pocket watch winder ECU students found at Brunswick Town.

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation says Wilkes was an Englishman idolized by Americans at the time. The number 45 refers to a notorious Wilkes pamphlet saying the king was not above reproach, according to the foundation.

“Brunswick Town was a hotbed of sedition, being among the first to oppose the Stamp Act, and what better place than a tavern to find confirmation of these sentiments?” Ewen said. “Maybe it was something under the radar. They weren’t outright denouncing the government, but maybe wearing these cufflinks let you know who was on your side.”

Ewen said the 15-by-25-foot tavern could have been active from the 1740s to the 1760s before burning. An Irish halfpenny, dated 1766, found at the site might suggest how late the building was there.

Master’s students Kimberly Byrnes and Brandon Eckert supervised the 10 undergraduates who worked on the site. Among other artifacts, they found nails, shards of Delft china and the winding key and glass from a pocket watch, Ewen said.

Work will continue next summer to locate the building’s chimney, he added.

– Doug Boyd

Focus

Michelle Oyen

College of Engineering and Technology

Associate professor

Creating better replacement parts for the body is Michelle Oyen's goal

Maybe Legos and "MacGyver" can't solve all the world's problems. However, Michelle Oyen is willing to try.

Oyen is on a complicated quest to improve health care through biomimetic materials, using and creating more natural-like substances that are better for the body and better for the environment.

"If you have arthritis and your cartilage is dodgy, instead of having a knee replacement surgery and replacing your bones and cartilage with metal and plastic, we make a material that's more like the natural cartilage was and repair your joint using something that is more like something that was there in the first place," said Oyen, an associate professor of biomedical engineering in ECU's College of Engineering and Technology. She's also co-director of ECU's biomaterials research cluster.

She even uses Lego robots to help create bone-like material and channels TV's MacGyver into her thinking.

"You put together the Legos and the 3D printer, and you can pretty much make a prototype of anything," Oyen said. "Prototyping in a very MacGyver sense has become so much easier with these modern tools. Engineers are very MacGyver-ish."

She has a passion for women's health issues and is part of a group that will soon publish a journal focused on pregnancy.

"We've done some work on premature birth and trying to understand how the placenta develops and how that can go wrong and how that can lead to miscarriage or stillbirth," Oyen said.

The Minnesota native spent 12 years at the University of Cambridge in England helping start its biomedical engineering program. She arrived at ECU in August 2018 to continue her focus on teaching and improving health care through engineering.

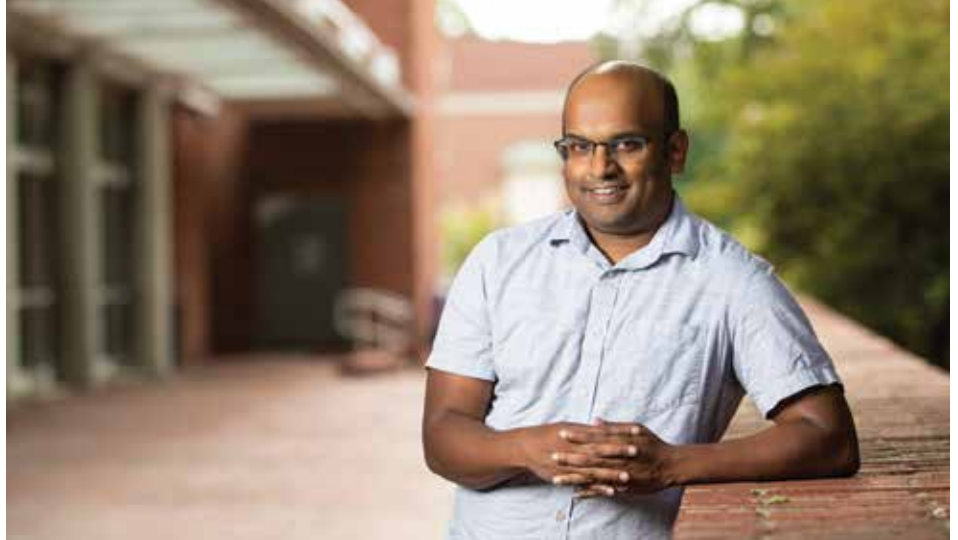
"It's all using types of engineering tools to try to understand medical problems," Oyen said. "There are so many problems in health care, and we have all this technology we can use to help people."

– Ken Buday





Alex Manda, a hydrogeologist and associate professor in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award and will travel to Zambia next year to assist in water quality testing of the African nation’s groundwater system. Manda – a native of Zambia – will spend eight months in the country studying the potential contamination of groundwater in the suburbs around the capital of Lusaka. He will assess the potential impacts of nitrates in untreated wastewater, while engaging with stakeholders to help them better understand potential sources of contamination. He will also evaluate groundwater management approaches that may address elevated nitrate concentrations.



Chris Balakrishnan, an associate professor in the Department of Biology, has been appointed to a temporary program director position with the National Science Foundation’s Evolutionary Processes Cluster. The position allows Balakrishnan to make recommendations about which NSF research proposals to fund. He’ll also influence new directions in the fields of science, engineering and education, while supporting cutting-edge research and mentoring junior researchers. Balakrishnan’s research focuses on evolutionary processes, especially in bird species. His work studies different behaviors – including parental care and song-learning mechanisms – and the molecular processes that underlie those actions.



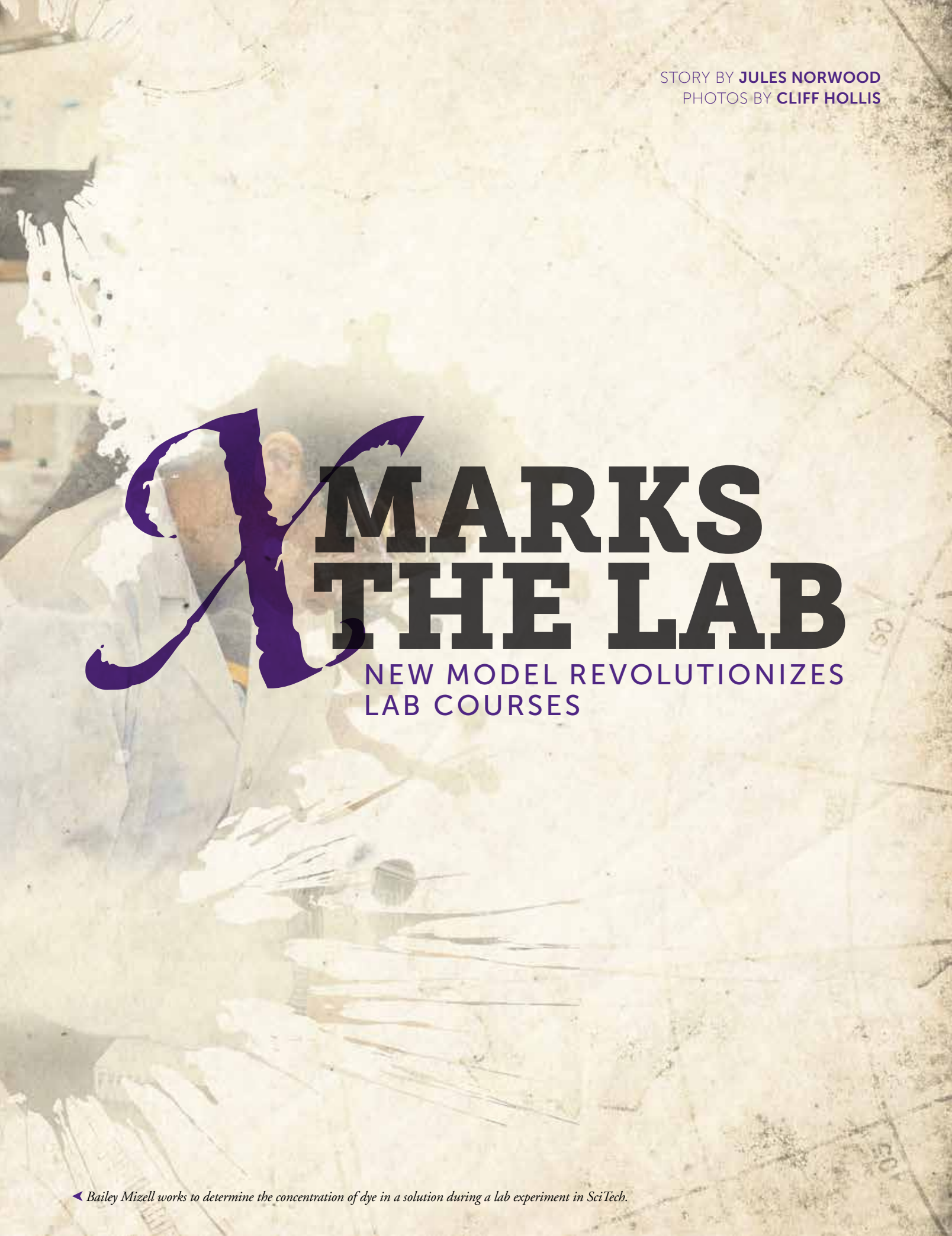
George Bonner has been named director of the North Carolina Renewable Ocean Energy Program, a research partnership that integrates coastal, electrical, civil and mechanical engineering with the natural and social sciences to research and develop technologies to harness ocean hydropower as a source of renewable energy for North Carolina. Housed at the ECU Outer Banks campus in Wanchese, the NCROEP is led by the Coastal Studies Institute and the colleges of engineering at N.C. State University, N.C. A&T, UNC Charlotte and ECU. Bonner is a Roanoke Island native with three decades of engineering and management experience in the U.S. Coast Guard.



Scott E. Francis has been appointed associate vice chancellor and president of the ECU Alumni Association. Francis comes to ECU from the University of Florida, where he was responsible for the support, training, direction and stewardship of 95 Gator Clubs, six affiliate groups and more than 700 leaders representing 422,000 alumni. At ECU, Francis will be responsible for representing the interests of nearly 170,000 alumni, lead alumni staff and provide direction on the association’s programs and component parts. Francis has a bachelor’s degree from Stockton University and a master’s degree from Western Illinois University.



STORY BY **JULES NORWOOD**
PHOTOS BY **CLIFF HOLLIS**

A student in a white lab coat is working in a laboratory. The background is a blurred image of a lab bench with various equipment and papers. The student is looking down at something on the bench. The overall tone is bright and professional.

A MARKS **THE LAB**

NEW MODEL REVOLUTIONIZES
LAB COURSES

◀ *Bailey Mizell works to determine the concentration of dye in a solution during a lab experiment in SciTech.*



▲ Above: *Laith Hamed prepares a solution in an experiment to reverse engineer purple dye.*

Right: *Ashley Yang checks the readout from a spectrometer.*

From the elevator, turn left down the hall and take 20 paces. Turn left again, and X marks the spot where Pirates are learning science in East Carolina University's new, more effective laboratory classes.

X-Labs is a cross-disciplinary project aimed at changing the way instructors introduce scientific experimentation to students in chemistry, biology and physics lab courses.

For decades, science labs have looked the same.

"You give students prescriptive, cookbook, scripted labs where they're told, 'Add 3 milliliters of this, add one drop of that,' and oh look, it turned blue," says Joi Walker, assistant professor of chemistry. "Believe it or not, those are not in any way valuable in terms of education."

In the redesigned labs, based on the Argument-Driven Inquiry model, experiments are based on a guiding question. In small groups, the students design and conduct an experiment to answer the question, present and defend their results to other groups, and write a lab report. Walker says the process better prepares students



for actual scientific research and makes more efficient use of valuable class time.

"The laboratory is an integral part of science education," she says. "It's a three-hour block of time, we have amazing facilities, you have an inherently small student-to-teacher ratio, and so some of what I'm trying to do is use that time to do things that we can't do in class. Like writing. Like presentations," she says.

Rather than focusing on following a prescribed set of steps to get the right result, the emphasis is on learning how to use experimentation to answer a question, as well as developing the ability to explain and justify the results. The inherent messiness of having students design their own experiments is part of the beauty of the ADI model, Walker says.

"It gives them an opportunity to see, 'Oh, we got different results. We got a different outcome. Our answer may not be exactly the same as someone else's.' And that's science," she says. "I would rather a student be able to justify and explain what went wrong. That's when you really understand it."

One of the challenges of developing the curriculum for the labs, she says, has been coming up with questions that are answerable, but not easily answerable, because if all the students get the same answer, there's little room for discussion and argumentation.

Pirate Purple

In a chemistry lab on measuring the concentration of chemicals in a solution, students are given a scenario in which they need to produce Pirate purple dye for a sports drink. By analyzing samples, they reverse engineer the dye to calculate its contents and determine how they would make more.

“I didn’t tell them how to set it up,” says Eli Hvastkovs, associate professor of analytical chemistry. “They have to set up the lab themselves – lay out a plan and write a proposal. The idea is for them to explore on their own, collect data and come up with an argument that answers a question.”

Chemistry major Victoria Preston says the process was more engaging compared to non-ADI labs. Working in groups helped her see different perspectives and allowed an opportunity to bounce ideas off of each other, she says. The peer review of lab reports also helped.

“It was a great way to understand the material better,” she says. “Some people understood certain parts of the experiment better than others, so reading over everyone’s papers helped piece together parts that I was less confident on.”

Preston, who plans to attend medical school, says the two ADI labs she’s taken helped her build confidence in her research skills and learn how to work as part of a team while still thinking independently.

Setting up labs with a consistent format across disciplines means students know what to expect from lab courses once they’ve had one, whether it’s in chemistry, biology or physics.

Students aren’t the only ones with positive feedback on the ADI model. Walker says a faculty member with 17 years of experience told her the first time he taught an ADI lab was the first time he felt like he taught real science.

“Science identity is key to retention of STEM majors. ... We were pretty excited to see that after just one semester, we saw ... a positive shift in science identity.”

Joi Walker, assistant professor of chemistry

Driven by Results

The X-Labs team, which includes principal investigators Walker, Kris Callis-Duehl, assistant professor of biology, and Steven Wolf, assistant professor of physics, is tracking the impact of the new lab model on student success and retention as part of a three-year, \$598,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The study already includes more than 1,200 students.

“Science identity is key to retention of STEM majors,” Walker says. “Even a student who’s a C student, if they identify and feel like they can do science, they will stay in science. We were pretty excited to see that after just one semester, we saw a shift in identity, a positive shift in science identity.”

Results also show improvement in the students’ ability to engage in argumentation and in writing ability. Walker says the study will provide statistical analysis that will not only show the overall benefit of the program but also breakdowns of which students benefit the most and how different groups of students benefit from the improved lab model.

The project includes sharing the curriculum with community colleges in the region; Lenoir Community College is implementing the chemistry curriculum next year, and the team is working to bring Pitt Community College and Beaufort Community College on board as well.

► E



▲ Redesigned labs in chemistry, biology and physics are using the Argument-Driven Inquiry model. Here, Sophia Villani works to determine the composition of a solution.

PIRATES ASCENDING

ATHLETICALLY AND ACADEMICALLY, ECU SPORTS STRIVE FOR THE TOP

STORY BY **DOUG BOYD**

Most every year in recent memory, Pirate sports teams have been nationally ranked.

Most every year, ECU teams and athletes have participated in NCAA tournaments.

Most every year, Pirate athletes have been named to All-America teams and received national academic accolades.

And even with all that success, you could say the Pirates are just getting started.



(L to R): Seth LeDay, Alec Burleson,
Avonti Holt, Daria Draovitch



The new TowneBank Tower, so named following a \$3 million commitment earlier this year from the banking company, is part of a Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium project that includes premium seating and parking. The tower includes the Trade Club, named following a \$1 million gift from Edwin and Ann Clark of Greenville. Beyond the stadium the project includes upgrades to the Ward Sports Medicine Building and the construction of the Walter and Marie Williams Hitting Facility beside Clark-LeClair Stadium.

“It all starts with our new AD, Jon Gilbert, and his goals for the athletic program, his vision,” says Kim McNeill, ECU’s new women’s basketball coach, who cites Gilbert as one of the reasons she came to ECU. “His passion to develop this athletic program, and where he’s been (Alabama, Tennessee) ... he’s seen how it’s supposed to look. I think it’s a great time to be part of ECU athletics. It’s a great time to be part of this athletic program.”

As Gilbert likes to say, athletics isn’t the most important endeavor at East Carolina University, but it is the most visible. And that’s why he’s embracing the challenge of taking the Pirates to new levels of success.

“The better our athletic programs can be, we provide a significant amount of exposure to our university and eastern North Carolina,” Gilbert says. “The better we are on Saturday – everyone wants to be a part of that.”

Facility and program improvements

Gilbert’s spearheaded a number of changes since arriving at ECU. His first act was hiring national championship-winning football coach Mike Houston away from James Madison University.

This summer, the Hight football practice field received new artificial turf. Another new turf field next to it will be available for other sports.



“The better our athletic programs can be, we provide a significant amount of exposure to our university and eastern North Carolina.”

Jon Gilbert, ECU athletics director

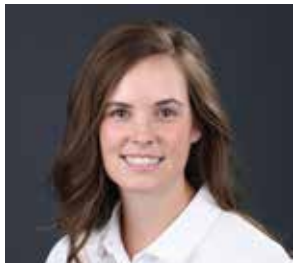
The Murphy Center weight room has new equipment and graphics. The basketball court has gotten a redesign.

Gilbert insisted on a redesign of the visiting athletic director’s box in the new TowneBank Tower at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, saying the previous design was too big. He made it smaller and sold the extra space as another suite.

Gilbert also hired Kristina Parrish, a dietitian with Big 10 and ACC experience, who joined ECU in June as the university’s first-ever director of sports nutrition.

Not surprisingly, interest in athletics is measurably up at ECU. Shortly before football season kicked off, fans had

ECU's newest coaches



C.C. Buford, women's golf



Mike Houston, football



Kim McNeill, women's basketball

bought 13,700 football season tickets, more than last year (but still short of the more than 22,300 season tickets fans scooped up as recently as 2010). ECU has collected \$566,000 in parking revenue in the first year of sales of premium passes. In July, Gilbert also said Pirate Club donations are up \$260,000 compared to the same time in 2018.

On-field accomplishments are up as well. ECU's baseball team was nationally ranked all season and won its Greenville regional. Overall, ECU finished No. 148 in final Directors Cup standings for 2019, sandwiched between Weber State and St. John's. That's up from a final ranking of 240 last year in the most widely cited ranking of college athletic programs.

And the academic accomplishments keep rolling in:



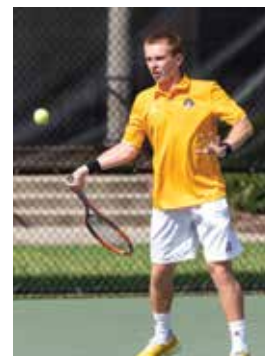
Dorthea Forbrigd tees off at the 2019 AAC Championships.

- The Women's Golf Coaches Association included ECU golfers Carly Cox, Dorthea Forbrigd, Kate Law, Siranon Shoomee and Grace Yatawara among its list of 2018-19 Division 1 All-American Scholars. The team led all ECU programs with a 3.77 GPA for the 2018-19 year.

- The Golf Coaches Association of America named the men's golf squad (team GPA of 3.41) to its All-Academic Team for the eighth straight year and 10th time in the 11-year history of the program.
- The National Association of Basketball Coaches named ECU's men's basketball team (3.13 team GPA) to its seventh annual Team Academic Excellence Awards. Justice

Obasohan, Dimitrije Spasojevic, John Whitley, Tyler Foster, Jayden Gardner, Samson Strickland, DeShaun Wade and Addison Hill made the AAC All-Academic team. And Hill, Obasohan and Whitley were honored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches as part of its 2018-2019 Honors Court for their academics.

- Men's tennis player Austin Allen received the AAC Commissioner's Postgraduate Leadership Award. Allen graduated from ECU in May with a degree in biochemistry and plans to study at the UNC School of Medicine this fall.
- This spring, the football team achieved a program-record 2.74 GPA.



Austin Allen

- Four baseball players achieved 4.0 GPAs (Jake Kuchmaner, Evan Voliva, Alec Burleson and Evan Odum) and helped the Pirates record their best-ever in-season spring GPA (3.48). The AAC named Jake Agnos the male and baseball scholar athlete of the year, and he was a Google Cloud First-Team Academic All-American. And Agnos, Burleson and Spencer Brickhouse were named to All-America teams for their play on the diamond.
- Baseball, men's basketball, women's golf and men's tennis received 2018-19 AAC Team Academic Excellence Awards.
- The women's swim team set a program-best 3.49 GPA.

East Carolina's unparalleled teams

These teams went unbeaten, won titles or achieved top-10 national rankings at the end of their seasons.



1933-34 women's basketball

This team went undefeated in its first season playing other schools. The team's success led President Richard Wright to announce in chapel he was rescinding the rule that women had to wear hats and gloves when they went off campus. The announcement got a standing ovation.

◀ **1941 football**

Coach John Christenbury led this team to the school's only undefeated, untied football season, finishing 7-0.



1953-54 men's basketball

Coached by Howard Porter, this team charged to a 23-2 record, won the North State Conference and earned a trip to the NAIA tournament.

1957 and 1959 men's swimming

Coach Ray Martinez led these teams to NAIA national championships, the first national titles for any East Carolina team.

◀ **1961 baseball**

Pitcher Larry Crayton struck out a record 19 Grambling batters in the NAIA College World Series semifinals in Sioux City, Iowa, and the Pirates defeated Sacramento State in the championship game to win the national title.



◀ **1972-73 women's basketball**

Coach Catherine Bolton's team beat N.C. State and North Carolina on its way to an undefeated regular season and a trip to the national AIAW Tournament.

1973 wrestling

In 1973, coach John Welborn's team won all 10 weight classes at the North Carolina College State Championships at Chapel Hill.

◀ **1991 football**

The Pirates lost their first game but surged to 11 straight wins in the "We Believe" season, including a win in the Jan. 1, 1992, Peach Bowl over N.C. State and a final No. 9 ranking in the Associated Press poll.



2004 baseball

The Pirates won the Conference USA regular season and the Kinston regional, finishing with a 51-13 record and a No. 8 national ranking by Baseball America.

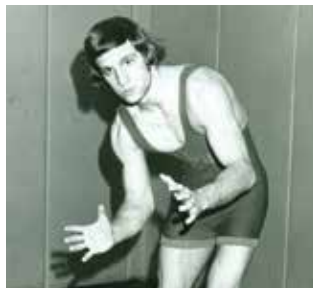


◀ From left, Brandee Markwith, Shelby Martin, Bri Wood, Toya Osuegbu and Kaiya Heylinger-Powell celebrate during a volleyball match Sept. 14 against Norfolk State.

It's not all on campus, either. ECU student-athletes logged more than 6,000 hours of community service during the 2018-19 academic year, including more than 1,400 hours following Hurricane Florence. The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics named ECU as one of three finalists for its Community Service Award. And the ECU women's tennis team received the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Community Service Award for the Carolina Region.

“ (Athletics is) an area where many young people learn confidence, learn organization, learn to be part of a group and work toward goals. ”

Milt Sherman, retired kinesiology professor and ECU Hall of Fame member (wrestling)



Sports' intangibles

Athletics pays off in ways beyond wins and losses, dollars and cents, says Milt Sherman, a retired kinesiology professor and ECU Hall of Fame member from his days as a wrestler in the 1970s.

“It's an area where many young people learn confidence, learn organization, learn to be part of a group and work toward goals,” Sherman says. “You don't want to just have a team. You want to have a team of future college graduates. It was fun for me as a teacher to have a college athlete in the class because they tend to bring some energy with them.”

Sherman says when sports teams are successful, the spirit permeates the university and community. Addison Hill, who started 11 games for the Pirates basketball team last season before graduating and beginning his MBA at ECU, agrees.

“The spirit of East Carolina has always been kind of connected to athletics,” he says. “I don't know if any student has ever done their entire undergraduate (years) without going to a football game. Even if you don't walk in the game, just tailgate.”

And that extends to people from across North Carolina, Gilbert says.

“Everybody's important,” Gilbert says. “We really have been a grassroots type of institution. We need them to buy a single game ticket, a season ticket, come to one of our free athletic events. That really is the strength of ECU. I'm excited about it.”

Toward that end, football opened its season Aug. 31 against N.C. State. Men's basketball opens Nov. 5 against Virginia Military Institute. Women's basketball begins Nov. 6 versus Middle Tennessee State.

In addition, volleyball and women's soccer began their seasons in August. All their home games are free. ▶ E

STORY BY **SPAINE STEPHENS**





TELEPSYCHIATRY

ECU-LED NETWORK HAS SERVED THOUSANDS

Not long ago, ECU psychiatrist Dr. Sy Saeed received a handwritten note from a woman halfway across the country who had read an article about him in her local newspaper.

The Associated Press article reported how telepsychiatry – the use of secure, real-time interactive audio and video technology at the bedside to connect patients with expert psychiatric assessments and mental health care – is helping combat the shortage and maldistribution of psychiatrists.

The article struck a chord with the woman, who wrote that her daughter had faced mental health challenges, and Saeed's work is a step in the right direction for patients.

Fittingly, Saeed, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has received the 2019 O. Max Gardner Award from the University of North Carolina System Board of Governors. The honor pays tribute to one faculty member within the system whose current work was deemed the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.

"He's done things that people thought would be impossible," says Dr. Mark Stacy, dean of Brody and vice chancellor for ECU's Division of Health Sciences. "Telepsychiatry – people probably thought his idea was impossible, and now it's in 60 hospitals in the state."

An open door for the underserved

Saeed helped develop the N.C. Statewide Telepsychiatry Program and serves as director of that program and the ECU Center for Telepsychiatry and E-Behavioral Health. Much of his work focuses on using telepsychiatry to provide mental health care in remote and underserved areas where psychiatric services are scarce.

Established through state legislation in 2013 with \$2 million in annual funding, NC-STeP is administered by the ECU CTeBH and is overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Rural Health.

More than 55% of North Carolina hospitals are set up for telepsychiatry. Specialists have completed more than 33,000 psychiatry assessments since the program's inception, resulting in more than 4,300 involuntary commitments overturned. This has saved the state more than \$23 million by preventing unnecessary hospitalizations and delivered care to patients previously untreated. It's estimated at least 32% of telepsychiatry patients in the state would not have received treatment without the program.

"Telepsychiatry fills gaps with what science has promised these patients," Saeed says. "They now have emergency intervention and access to professional medical care. We've opened a door."



“Telepsychiatry fills gaps with what science has promised these patients. They now have emergency intervention and access to professional medical care. We’ve opened a door.”

Dr. Sy Saeed, ECU psychiatrist, professor and chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

Bridging the mental health care gap

Telepsychiatry means when a patient requiring a telepsychiatry consult presents at a remote referring site, experts can assess the patient and consult with the referring physician, who is ultimately responsible for care decisions.

It's the type of solution Saeed learned to seek early on.

In his native Pakistan, Saeed completed his medical training and was offered a position as chief medical officer at a federal medical center in a remote province. He traveled to the site, eager to connect with patients and offer solutions for health and wellness. Instead, Saeed found the center did not yet exist.

“I thought, ‘I’m here to serve people,’” Saeed says. “I convinced my boss to give me a temporary place (until the center was built) where I could start a clinic where people who needed care could go. That’s what led to my administrative leadership type of thinking on how you even start these things. The need was so dire.”

Since joining ECU in 2004, Saeed has pushed for change that could improve millions of lives. The statistics are still glaring: About a third of N.C. counties have no practicing psychiatrist; most are in the East. Saeed knew his work at ECU would be two-fold: to provide the state’s residents the services that were in essence promised to them as North Carolinians, and to help people in communities who were falling victim to the mental health care gap.

“It’s no longer just a gap,” Saeed says. “It’s a chasm.”

‘Quality care close to home’

Telepsychiatry allows patients to be heard and receive access to expert treatment where they are. For many, the only place to turn is their hospital emergency department, where they often wait days for the appropriate evaluations.

“Dr. Saeed’s initiative addresses the need to provide timely acute care services to emergency departments throughout the state,” says Dr. Marvin Swartz, professor and head of the

Division of Social and Community Psychiatry in the Duke University School of Medicine. “The emergency departments are struggling mightily to address the rising number of patients requiring behavioral health evaluations.”

Local health departments are jumping on board, too. Battle Betts Jr. is health director at Albemarle Regional Health Services in Elizabeth City, the first local health department to pilot the NC-STeP program.

“Based on the success of the initial NC-STeP program, it was a natural progression to expand the program into local health departments,” Betts says. “Since 2016 when we first ventured into this arena, over 80 different area providers have referred their patients to us for care. Behavioral health needs continue to rise in today’s society, and Dr. Saeed’s innovative vision has made great progress toward seeing that all residents of our state have access to quality care close to home.”

Saeed continues to pursue more improvements in mental health care treatment as research and evidence-based care evolve. He believes professionals have a duty to be pioneers.

“We have an obligation to stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and leave things better than how we found them,” he says. “We have a responsibility to be good stewards of resources and good stewards of knowledge.” ▶ €

◀ (From left) ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Mark Stacy and Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach (right) congratulate Dr. Sy Saeed on being named the 2019 recipient of the O. Max Gardner Award.

Telepsychiatry enables patients in rural emergency departments to consult with a psychiatrist via a secure video connection.





Hometown: Kernersville

Major: Physician assistant studies

Career goals: Physician assistant specializing in women's health

Challenges such as cutting off your hair to raise money to fight cancer don't scare physician assistant graduate student Jenny Song.

This spring, Song served as the co-team leader for the College of Allied Health Sciences team for the third annual Pirates Vs. Cancer event. The fundraiser is a student-run event that unites students and staff from across the Health Sciences Campus as well as other ECU undergraduates and staff to raise money to fight pediatric cancer.

Collectively, they raised more than \$52,000 for the James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital at Vidant Medical Center.

"It's easy to lose sense of the bigger picture and goal," Song said. "Although I'm constantly learning about the impacts of medicine, the majority of my time is spent in the classroom or studying, so seeing everyone gather for this allowed me to put things into perspective and see first-hand how uplifting and supportive this community is."

Song aspires to specialize in women's health. One thing she loves about the profession is its flexibility, giving her options to explore different specialties.

Song views medicine as the "perfect marriage of science and art." She doesn't believe it's necessary to compromise either in her career pursuits. "The human body is visually stunning and intricate," she said. "There isn't one definite answer in approaching patient treatment like there isn't one right way to make art."



Graduate student Joe Han photographs his sculpture at College Hill. The stainless-steel structure uses math and words from different languages that are associated with knowledge and education. When the sun hits the branches, it creates an image of the symbols on the ground. The cost of the project including design, construction and installation was budgeted at \$28,000 and funded by Campus Living and Great Books.

PIRATE NATION ★

ARTIST, TEACHER,

PHILANTHROPIST,

PIRATE

Years ago, Sneads Ferry artist Sherry Thurston '70 drew a pair of white rubber boots – the kind local shrimpers and anglers wear – called the drawing “Sneads Ferry Sneakers” and had T-shirts made with the image to sell at the coastal town’s annual shrimp festival.

“I had people banging on my door at 11 o’clock at night wanting shirts,” she said.

Last fall, it was Hurricane Florence doing the banging. Thurston’s home fared pretty well, but her gallery next door in the old Original Free Will Baptist Church didn’t.

“It rolled up the tin on my building the very last day it was here terrorizing people,” she said.

Not long after, Jason Grote, one of her former students at Dixon High School in Holly Ridge, drove by. He had moved to Florida and started a roofing business but still traveled back to Sneads Ferry on occasion. He spotted the damaged roof.

“I figured it would probably be an easy job my crew could knock out pretty quick,” he said. Thurston had already bought the materials, so Grote and his team spent three days installing the new roof for a fraction of his normal rate.

Later, he recalled his days in Thurston’s art classes. “She was great,” he said. “We just kind of grew up with her as the art teacher. I was really into that class. It wasn’t just art. It was pottery and a lot of cool stuff. She was a real cool teacher.”



Jason Grote



Sherry Thurston holds “Waiting,” which she painted from a photo she took of Marines from the 24th Amphibious Unit at Camp Lejeune.

across a group of Marines waiting near the road after rifle range training. They were from the 24th Marine Amphibious Unit.

She stopped, got out and asked their commanding officer, Lt. William Zimmerman, if she could photograph his troops. He agreed. She made a painting of one of the photos showing four Marines – three standing, one sitting on his rucksack.

“They’d been out probably since before dawn,” Thurston said. “I didn’t know their slogan was ‘hurry up and wait,’ and I called it “Waiting.”

You might have heard of the 24th. Their barracks were attacked in the 1983 Beirut bombing. Zimmerman was killed. Later, his family found Thurston’s name and studio number among his personal effects. His sister contacted Thurston, and in 1988, they established the Thurston-Zimmerman Scholarship at Coastal Carolina Community College funded by sales of the print.

Though she’s retired from the school system, Thurston still teaches art and produces commissioned works.

“You can’t retire when you’re an artist,” she said.

– Doug Boyd

Living near Camp Lejeune, Thurston has been inspired by the military in her work. In 1981, she was driving along N.C. 210 in Onslow County when she came



HE STARTED 'BO TIME.'
NOW IT'S 'GO TIME'

Above, Randy Poindexter congratulates Brad Keselowski on his win in the 2018 Bojangles' Southern 500 at Darlington.

When Erik Jones won the Bojangles' Southern 500 at Darlington on Labor Day weekend, the high point for Randy Poindexter '78 probably wasn't on the track. More likely, it was all the times the fried chicken chain's name was broadcast across the country and even around the world.

Poindexter retired in August as senior vice president of marketing for Bojangles' Restaurants – a role he had held since 1990. He counts the sponsorship of the NASCAR race as a highlight of his career – one that he worked hard to get going.

"Coming out of East Carolina I knew I wanted to be in advertising. I dreamed big," Poindexter said.

After a year-and-a-half of rejections, Poindexter landed a job with Chesapeake Bay Advertising, a small Virginia Beach agency.

He worked on the Burger King account until Burger King hired him away to Houston. Then, KFC offered him a job in Atlanta. Soon, one of his former mentors at KFC bought Bojangles' and offered Poindexter a job in Charlotte – closer to his hometown of High Point – and that's when "Bo time" started.

While Bojangles' would use celebrities in its commercials, such as former Carolina Panthers Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith, NASCAR legends Jeff Gordon and Dale Earnhardt Jr., professional golfer Bubba Watson and country singer Scotty McCreery, Poindexter said the star was always the chicken, biscuits and iced tea.

"When people are looking at commercials you want them to hear and see the message, and the use of humor in commercials attracts people more so than boring, bland commercials – just like our food," Poindexter said. "Our food's not bland. Our food is pretty awesome. Food is what brought Bojangles' to the dance, and today we still focus on the quality of the food."

A lifelong race fan, Poindexter started going to racetracks with a couple of thousand dollars, finding the drivers who qualified for the races but didn't have major sponsorship and negotiating to get "Bojangles'" on their car. Now, the company is title sponsor of one of the top NASCAR races each season.

"That was our sort of introduction to more national media because the Bojangles' Southern 500 is televised on NBC across the entire United States," Poindexter said.



Randy Poindexter '78
Senior VP, marketing, Bojangles' restaurants (retired)

What's your favorite food at Bojangles?
 Cajun filet biscuit with seasoned fries and Bojangles' legendary iced tea

What's your favorite Bojangles' commercial?
 "In a Bojangles Town" with singer Scotty McCreery

Hear more from Poindexter at east.ecu.edu.

He stays connected to ECU by serving on the marketing and supply chain advisory board in the College of Business. And looking back on his career, he said he's most proud of the team he helped build in Charlotte.

"When I joined Bojangles' in 1990, there were only two people in the marketing department," he said. "Now that I'm leaving Bojangles', there's almost 20 people in the department, and I'm very proud of the fact that I've helped develop them."

–Rich Klindworth



Alex Turner

Year: Senior

Major: Neuroscience and psychology

Hometown: Houston

“YOU HAVE TO BE SELF-DISCIPLINED, BUT IF YOU LOVE WHAT YOU’RE DOING, YOU’LL BE WILLING TO PUT IN THE EXTRA HOURS AND EFFORT TO SUCCEED.”

Making an impact

TURNER IS ALL-IN

ON FOOTBALL, ACADEMICS

When he’s not taking down opponents as the anchor of the Pirates’ defensive line, Alex Turner is tackling some of medicine’s most important questions in the laboratory.

The neuroscience and psychology double major dreams of not only playing in the National Football League but also putting his brain to work as a neurosurgeon once his playing days are done.

Turner, who will graduate a semester early in December, is studying in Johanna Hannan’s lab in the ECU Department of Physiology, exploring the effects of prostate cancer treatments.

“One in nine men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime,” Turner said. “I’m looking at external beam radiation therapy on the prostate and how that can affect bladder and local nerve function. I hope the work I’m doing helps lead to a better quality of life for those fighting cancer.”

Turner was one of 32 students to receive an Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity award last spring. The award, presented by the Office of Undergraduate Research, supports faculty-mentored research and creative projects. Turner says academics and athletics have some similarities.

“You have to be self-disciplined, but if you love what you’re doing, you’ll put in the extra hours and effort to succeed,” he said.

The 6-foot-2, 293-pounder believes the Pirates will be turning heads on the field this season.

“We’re going to bring our fans a completely different team this year,” he said. “When coach (Mike) Houston says it’s going to be rocking and roaring, we’re going to deliver on that. We’re changing the culture here, and we’re going to get it done.”

Turner is a two-time academic all-district honoree and American Athletic Conference All-Academic Team selection.

“When I can no longer use my body to help others and be an inspiration, I want to use my mind,” Turner said. “I’m going to do my best to get to the level where I can save lives one day and make the world a better place.”

— Matt Smith



FOR MORE INFO

Watch Alex Turner talk more about his research at go.ecu.edu/turner.



5 MINUTES WITH WILLIE JOYNER '94 '08

Position: Assistant principal at North Pitt High School, founder of K-12 step dancing program HYPE (Helping Yourself with Pride through Education)

Degree: Bachelor's in business education, master's in school administration

Hometown: Farmville

"I taught business for 12 years before going into administration. I went into the profession very tough, but I think I softened a lot once I realized the struggles that kids go through. A lot of my passion went toward young men with troubled lives whose issues stemmed from not having a father figure around. HYPE grew out of that passion to work with young men and offer them guidance, mentorship and leadership opportunities.

(HYPE was on Season 9 of "America's Got Talent.")

"That was a crazy, exciting opportunity. The judges loved the boys' performance, but we didn't make it to the regular competition.

"I was a member of the ECU gospel choir and Alpha Pi Alpha fraternity. There was one teacher I was very fond of: my business marketing professor, Betty Wilson. One time in class I started having chest pains, and she had to call the ambulance for me – that was a memorable moment. We became good friends and remained friends even after she left the university.

"The accountability I learned from my professors. You don't appreciate it at the time, but that no-nonsense mentality of 'you do it, you do it on time and you do it right' has definitely stuck with me. I became the first person from my family to graduate from a four-year university, so to me, college is about perseverance. We have a 100% high school graduation rate in our program, and a great majority of them go to college."

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.





OCT. 25,

HOMECOMING CANNED FOOD DRIVE CO-SPONSORED BY ECU CAMPUS KITCHEN AND PURPLE PANTRY

11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
homecoming@ecu.edu

HOMECOMING PEP RALLY AT FREEBOOT FRIDAY

5 p.m.–8 p.m.

Five Points Plaza in Uptown Greenville
uptowngreenville.com/play/freeboot-friday/

HOMECOMING NPHC STEP SHOW

7 p.m.

Main Campus Student Center Ballrooms
greeklife.ecu.edu

OCT. 26,

HOMECOMING PARADE AND FLOAT COMPETITION

9 a.m.

Fifth Street

ECU VS. USF

Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
Time TBA
ecupirates.com

A Purple and Gold Evening Oct. 25, 5:30–9 p.m.

Join us in recognizing alumni and friends of the university who have demonstrated outstanding merit and achievement, distinguished themselves as leaders for the university and adopted ECU as their own. piratealumni.com or 252-328-4723

Pirate doughnut party and homecoming parade

Oct. 26, TBA

Join us at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center for a great seat to watch the homecoming parade go right by our front lawn. Also enjoy various Pirate-themed doughnuts provided by sponsor Krispy Kreme.

Pirate Gameday Tailgate: ECU vs USF

Oct. 26, three hours before kickoff

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

2019 Black Alumni Reunion

Oct. 24-27

The Black Alumni Chapter of the ECU Alumni Association presents the 2019 Black Alumni Reunion. piratealumni.com/BAR

Marching Pirates Alumni Reunion

Oct. 26; five hours before kickoff

Join fellow former band members for a weekend of fun, music and football. Reminisce with old friends and make new ones as you join the band on the field and in the stands. piratealumni.com/MPReunion

Dowdy Student Stores homecoming celebration and sale Oct. 24-27

Dowdy Student Stores, Main Campus Student Center and Health Sciences Campus Student Center. Stop by Dowdy stores on campus for our Homecoming Sale-a-bration. studentstores.ecu.edu

COLLEGE, SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT EVENTS

College of Business

Homecoming tailgate

Oct. 26, Time: TBA

Free, location TBD

Paige Hill, hillel18@ecu.edu

or 252-737-5171

College of Allied Health Sciences Department of Health Services and Information Management

Health services management social

Oct. 25, 4–6 p.m.

Free, location: TBD

Robert Kulesher, kulesherr@ecu.edu

or 252-744-6174

Campus Recreation and Wellness

Club Sports Alumni Golf Scramble

Oct. 25, 9 a.m.

Ayden Golf & Country Club

Justin Waters, watersj@ecu.edu

Honors College

Party on the Porch

Oct. 25, 4–8 p.m.

Brock's Farm, 862 Laurie

Ellis Road, Winterville

Free, RSVP requested

Diane Majewski, majewskid@ecu.edu

or 252-737-1019

Department of Criminal Justice

Alumni reception

Oct. 25, 3–5 p.m.

Rivers Building, Room 208

Free, No RSVP required

Jenna Smith, peadenje@ecu.edu

or 252-737-5408

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Homecoming breakfast

Oct. 26, 8 a.m.

Free on the lawn beside the Whichard Building

Jessica Nottingham,
nottinghamj@ecu.edu
or 252-737-1753

College of Allied Health Sciences

Homecoming tailgate

Oct. 26, 3 hours before kickoff

RSVP by Oct. 1

Alyssa De Santis Figiel,
desantisa14@ecu.edu
or 252-744-2114

Joyner Library

Pirate Family Fun Day

Oct. 26, 10 a.m.–noon

Free, RSVP by Oct. 25 at library.ecu.edu/2019/06/14/piratefamilyfun

Charlotte Fitz Daniels,
fitzdanielsc17@ecu.edu
or 252-328-0287

College of Education

Breakfast on the Porch

Oct. 26, 9–11:30 a.m.

The front porch of the Speight Building

Free, No RSVP required

Lisa Marie Hagen, hagenl@ecu.edu

College of Nursing

College of Nursing annual homecoming reception

Oct. 25, 5–7 p.m.

Lobby of the College of Nursing

Jane Boardman, boardmanj@ecu.edu

or 252-744-6504

Laupus Health Sciences Library

Laupus Library 50th anniversary open house and celebration

Oct. 25, 2–5 p.m.

Laupus Health Sciences Library

Free, No RSVP

Marlena Rose, barberm@ecu.edu

or 252-744-2229

OTHER

ECU Football Game

ECU vs. USF

Oct. 26, Time: TBA

ECUPirates.com or 800-DIAL-ECU

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

ECU Women's Volleyball

ECU vs. SMU

Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

ECU Women's Volleyball

ECU vs. Memphis

Oct. 27, noon

800-DIAL-ECU or ECUPirates.com

2019 Alumni Award Recipients

The following Pirates will be recognized Oct. 25 at the alumni awards ceremony and dinner and during halftime of the Oct. 26 homecoming football game.

Robert Brinkley '78 of Charlotte is a partner with Womble Bond Dickinson. Brinkley was a four-year varsity letter winner on the ECU baseball team, has been a member of the ECU Pirate Club since 1978 and led the Greensboro chapter of the ECU Alumni Association. He has served on the ECU board of visitors, the board of directors of the ECU Foundation, and the ECU board of trustees, including one year as vice chairman and two years as chairman.

Wanda Montano '74 of Greenville holds a social work degree from the College of Health and Human Performance. She is president of Undaunted Vision LLC, a business consulting and coaching company.

James Mullen III '74 '80 of Greenville had a successful career in rehabilitation before returning to ECU as director for employment and clinical services. He was later appointed as assistant vice chancellor for human resources, a position he held until his retirement in 2010. Mullen and his wife established the Jim and Pam Mullen Study Abroad Scholarship for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

Christa Reiser of Greenville has served ECU as a sociology professor and as co-director of the women's studies department. Under Reiser's leadership, women's studies brought major feminist scholars to campus and established the first Women of Distinction Award in 2006, which continues today under the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women. Reiser and her late husband, Ken Wilson, established endowed scholarships for students in sociology.

Kenneth Wilson (posthumous) taught sociology at ECU for 44 years. He helped establish ECU's Survey Research Lab, now the Center for Survey Research. He chaired the ECU Faculty from 1985-87, was ECU's representative to the UNC Faculty Assembly from 1987-93 and chaired the UNC Faculty Assembly from 1991-93.

Lauren Patterson '11 '13 of Cary teaches special education at White Oak Elementary School. She serves as her school's department chair for special education, is on the School Improvement Team, led the school's One Book, One School campaign and mentors new teachers in her spare time. She was named White Oak Teacher of the Year in 2016.

Calendar

ON CAMPUS

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

R.K.M. Jayanty is a chemist and distinguished fellow emeritus for RTI International as well as an adjunct professor of biological and agricultural engineering at N.C. State University. His advanced methods of measuring pollutants, which has enabled agencies to meet important regulatory goals, provide the scientific basis for international adoption of methods for pollution control and protecting human health and the environment. On Nov. 7, he comes to ECU for a talk titled "My Life Journey and Scientific Contributions to Improve Air Quality."



Travel writer, TV personality and activist **Rick Steves** brings his international perspective to ECU on Feb. 20. Steves took his first trip to

Europe in 1969 and has since developed his own

business, Rick Steves' Europe, writing more than 50 country, city and regional guidebooks; running a successful European tour program; hosting a weekly public radio program; and encouraging Americans to integrate themselves on a global level by broadening their perspectives through travel. His talk is titled "Travel as a Political Act."

Libby Riddles was a virtually unknown musher when the 1985 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race began. When the race ended, she was an international celebrity and the first woman to win the iconic event. She finished the 1,135-mile trail in 18 days, 20 minutes and 17 seconds, three hours faster than the second-place finisher, bringing instant fame to the race and becoming an inspiration for many. She'll be at ECU March 26 presenting "Blazing Trails with Sled Dogs: The Iditarod's First Woman Champion."



Voyages events are at 7 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center Ballrooms.

Tickets are available at ecu.edu/voyages.

ON STAGE

S. RUDOLPH ALEXANDER PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Tuvan ensemble **Alash** performs with Baltimore beatboxer **Shodekeh**. Alash are masters of traditional Tuvan instruments as well as the ancient art of throat singing, a remarkable technique for singing multiple pitches at the same time. Believing traditional music must constantly evolve, the musicians infuse their songs with western elements, creating their own style that is fresh and new yet true to their Tuvan musical heritage. Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

BALLET X delivers a contemporary repertory program that celebrates the athleticism of its classically trained dancers. Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. For Valentine's Day, **Akademie Für Alte Musik Berlin** performs "Beloved Baroque." The chamber

orchestra will deliver catchy tunes such as Pachelbel's famous Canon as well as powerful music by Händel, C.P.E. Bach and Vivaldi, showcasing Sebastian Bach's Double Concerto. Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Yamato: The Drummers of Japan features singing, dancing, martial arts and drumming. The musicians of Yamato believe their Wadaiko drums stir the hearts of mortals, enveloping audiences in "tamashy," the basic element of life. Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.



Celebrating the Music of Ray

Charles has all-star band supporting an all-star cast performing the catalogue of Georgia's native son. **Take 6, Nneena Freelon, Kirk Whalum and Clint Holmes** — all decorated musicians in their own right — take the stage March 13 at 7:30 p.m.



In **Vitaly: An Evening of Wonders**, the Canadian illusionist Vitaly Beckman melds art with trickery. He fooled Penn & Teller on their TV show "Fool Us."

An inventive entertainer, his art-based illusions are powerful and inspiring.

April 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for these events are \$36 for the public and are available at ecu.edu/srapas.

FAMILY FARE

ECU Storybook Theatre will stage "**Gooney Bird Greene and her True Life Adventures**" Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. Gooney Bird casts herself as the hero in the most improbable, outlandish stories: how she arrived from China on a flying carpet, how she got a lovely pair of diamond earrings at the local palace, how she directed a symphony orchestra while driving through the center of town and how her beloved cat was consumed by a cow. Are they "absolutely true," as she attests? Attend to find out!

"**Maddi's Fridge**" is a thoughtful treatment of the issue of food insecurity for young audiences. Maddi and Sofia are best friends. One day Sofia discovers that Maddi has no food in her fridge at home, but Maddi makes her promise not to tell anyone and to keep it a secret. Sofia sneaks food for Maddi in her bag and discovers that while fish and eggs are good for people, they aren't very good for backpacks. Despite Sofia's very best efforts, Maddi's fridge is still empty. Can Sofia find a way to keep her word but also help her best friend? Based on the book by Lois Brandt, this play is a thoughtful and funny exploration of friendship, empathy and doing the right thing. Bring a canned good for a food drive. Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets \$15.

Family Fare presents "**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus: The Musical.**" Fresh from author Mo Willems and the creative team at the Kennedy Center, this 45-minute production is complete with song, dance, actors and puppets in a whimsical retelling of the acclaimed Pigeon book series. Jan. 17 at 7 p.m.

"**Henry and Ramona**" is a mashup of classic tales from children's author Beverly Cleary. Henry wants a paper route, but the weight of the responsibility, coupled with the "help" of his friends and dog, jeopardize the enterprise. Feb. 21 at 7 p.m.

Based on the books and the TV show, "**Angelina Ballerina: The Musical**" will have audiences dancing in the aisles. Angelina seeks a space to shine as a distinguished guest visits Camembert Academy. From hip-hop to ballet, the students use their skills to impress and learn a lot about friendship along the way. March 20 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at ecu.edu/familyfare.

ECU/LOESSIN PLAYHOUSE

In the musical "**Into the Woods**", the Brothers Grimm hit the stage with an epic fairytale about wishes, family and the choices we make. Favorite storybook characters are brought together for a timeless, yet relevant, musical and a rare modern classic. When a couple learn a witch's curse has kept them childless, they set out to break the spell with unforeseen consequences. Rated PG-13. Nov. 20-24.

"**Ghost: The Musical**" is adapted from the film of the same name. Sam and Molly's relationship takes a supernatural turn after his untimely death. Believing Molly to be in grave danger and trapped between two worlds, Sam turns to a storefront psychic, Oda Mae Brown, who helps him protect Molly and avenge his death. Feb. 19-23. Shows are nightly at 7:30 plus a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturdays. Tickets \$17.50 and \$10.

"**The School for Scandal**" by Richard Brinsley Sheridan is centered around the gossip and sexual intrigue which dominated the upper classes in 18th century England. This classic "comedy of manners" presents a sarcastic look at the questionable morality of high society. A clever and subtle comedy, the wit and ingenuity of this play will leave you in stitches. Parental advisory. April 22-26, nightly at 7:30 plus a 2 p.m. matinee Saturday. Tickets \$15 and \$10.

DANCE

"**Fall Dance 2019**" features choreography from renowned guest artists and original works by ECU faculty and students. It's a dance concert that's second to none. The diverse range from classical ballet, to bold contemporary, to hot jazz and explosive tap provide performances that are wide ranging and engaging. Oct. 16-20.

"**Spring Dance 2020**" is an exciting and eclectic lineup of ballet, jazz, tap and contemporary dance for both the newcomer to dance and the dance lover. From lighthearted, comedic styles to moods of pure passion and intensity, all can appreciate the variety of raw emotion highlighted throughout these performances. March 25-29.

Dance performances are nightly at 7:30 plus a 2 p.m. Saturday matinee. Tickets \$10 and \$15 at McGinnis Auditorium.

FESTIVALS

The **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** presents **Chamber Music Dressed Down: The Magnificent Schubert** featuring Peter Wiley on cello and The Cooperstown Quartet on Oct. 12 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 5 p.m. and Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh. **Chamber Music Dressed**



Down: A Portrait of Two Artists with the music of Shostakovich and Brahms is presented Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Fletcher Recital Hall and Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. at Hayes Barton UMC. Free.

Four Seasons Next Generation concerts will be presented at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18; Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte; Oct. 23 at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 25 in Wilmington at First Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m.; and Oct. 27 at 5 p.m. at Nelson Music Room at Duke University. Free.

Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival

Greenville residencies are A Tradition of Individuals featuring the music of Haydn, Schumann and Beethoven on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m., reprised at Hayes Barton UMC in Raleigh at 3 p.m.; Cooperstown Plays Beethoven with the Cooperstown Quartet on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m., reprised at Hayes Barton UMC on Feb. 9 at 3 p.m.; and Songs, Dances and Tales with the music of Stravinsky, Brahms, Bruch and Arutiunian on April 16 at 7 p.m. and April 17 at 7:30 p.m.; reprised at Hayes Barton UMC on April 19 at 3 p.m. Ticketed.

Three Four Seasons Winter Workshop

concerts are presented Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Workshop faculty guest performing artists Robert McDonald, piano; Miriam Fried, violin; Paul Biss and Steven Tenenbom, viola; and Colin Carr and Michael Kannen, cello; will join ECU faculty and rising stars from throughout the world. Ticketed.

Four Seasons Features: A Look Back celebrates 20 years of the Four Seasons Chamber Music

Festival on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall and May 3 at 3 p.m. at Raleigh's Saint Mary's School in the Smedes-Emory Parlor. Adam Neiman, piano, and Ara Gregorian, violin, will perform Beethoven's *Violin Sonata No. 3 in E-Flat Major, Op.12 No. 3* and Franck's *Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano*. Ticketed.

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

North Carolina NewMusic Initiative director Ed Jacobs welcomes **Jason Calloway**, cello, Oct. 17. Calloway has performed to acclaim throughout North America, the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East as a soloist and chamber musician. He will perform the music of Ingrid Arauca, Mena Mark Hanna, Chinary Ung, Sydney Hodkinson, Matthias Pintscher and Luciano Berio.

The Wavefield Ensemble

joins the NewMusic Initiative in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Jan.

23 performing Pauline

Oliveros' *4 Pieces for Orchestra* and Pierre Boulez's *Derives 2*.



A world premiere NewMusic Initiative commission will happen at Fletcher on March 20 featuring the new music of composer **Lei Liang**. Says The Wire magazine, "One of the most exciting voices in New Music ... Liang is an important musical philosopher, coming into mature expression."

NewMusic Initiative's **Frequencies**, an ensemble created and directed by students, is presented in concert Feb. 13.

Premiere Performances is presented Nov. 21, March 26 and April 7. ECU School of Music performers focus their talents on the music of ECU composers in these first-ever public world premiere performances.

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

The ECU **Billy Taylor Jazz Festival** presents ECU Jazz Ensemble "B" in Fletcher Recital Hall on April 22 at 8 p.m., the Friends of Jazz "TomtheJazzman" Scholarship Benefit Concert at The Martinsborough in Uptown Greenville on April 23 at 8 p.m., the ECU Jazz Combos at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 8 p.m. April 24, and the Billy Taylor Jazz Festival Gala featuring ECU Jazz Ensemble "A" and special guests in Wright Auditorium on April 25 at 8 p.m.

The Friends of Jazz "TomtheJazzman" Scholarship Benefit Concert is ticketed. For tickets, contact 252-328-1268. All other Billy Taylor Jazz Festival events are free.

OPERA

ECU Opera Theater presents Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" on Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 23, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 24, 2 p.m., at the historic Turnage Theatre, 150 W. Main St., Washington.

The Opera Theater performs Jones and Schmidt's "The Fantasticks" at Turnage Theatre March 27 at 7:30 p.m., March 28 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and March 29 at 2 p.m. The Fantasticks, which debuted when Eisenhower was president, is the longest-running musical in history. It tells an allegorical story concerning two neighboring fathers who trick their children, Luisa and Matt, into falling in love by pretending to feud.

Tickets to both are \$5-\$20. For ticket information, call 252-946-2504 or visit artsofthepamlico.org.

For ticket information call 252-946-2504.

ORCHESTRA

The **ECU Symphony Orchestra**, Jorge Richter, conductor, is in concert Nov. 16, Feb. 8, March 7 and April 18.

All ECU Symphony Orchestra performances are at 7:30 p.m. at Wright Auditorium and are free. For information, call 252-328-6851 or visit music.ecu.edu/ensembles/orchestra.

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 School of Music presents top student performers in the **ECU Concerto Competition** on Dec. 3 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

The Percussion Ensemble performs with the mallets and sticks, timpani and tom toms, and cymbals and gongs in Room B110 on Oct. 24, Jan. 30 and April 9.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the Concert Band and the Symphonic Band perform together for **Bandorama** on Nov. 14; Nov. 23 brings the ECU Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble 'A'; the Concert Band and the Symphonic Band perform together Feb. 25 and April 16; and the Wind Ensemble performs April 21, all in Wright Auditorium. All band concerts are at 7:30 p.m.

ECU Guitar Ensemble performs Nov. 25 and April 20 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.

The Friends of the School of Music Scholarship Gala, featuring all the school's top performing ensembles, will be Jan. 25 at Rock Springs Center in Greenville at 6 p.m. For tickets or more information, call 252-328-1268.

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

CHOIRS

The ECU Chamber Singers are in concert Feb. 28 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville.

The ECU Collegiate Choir performs Oct. 28 and April 6, and the ECU University Chorale and Concert Choir harmonize Oct. 21 and Feb. 24 in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

All the choirs join Dec. 3 for the ECU Combined Choirs **Sounds of the Season** concert and April 27 for the **Spring Concert**. Both are at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7:30 p.m.

GUEST ARTISTS

Guest artist **Sergey Schepkin**, piano, is in concert Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Free and open to the public.

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 **2019 Juried Undergraduate Exhibition** Oct. 4-25; the **Fall 2019 MFA Thesis Exhibition** Nov. 1-22; the **Fall 2019 BFA Senior Exhibition** Dec. 2-13 and the **Material Topics Symposium Exhibitions** Jan. 6-21.

The **Spring 2020 MFA Thesis Exhibition** is March 6-27, and the **Spring 2020 BFA Senior Exhibition** is April 3-24.

Items in the **Keaton and Umberger Art Auction and Sale** are on view Jan. 31-Feb. 15, and the auction is Feb. 15 from 6-9 p.m. Proceeds support scholarships and programs at the School of Art and Design.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and admission is free. The Gallery is closed for all university holidays. For information call 252-328-6665 or email graygallery@ecu.edu.

Horizons

CHANGING LIVES,

CHANGING COMMUNITIES



Jocelyn Bates

Research

For the last three years, my research has been centered on Head Start, a federally funded preschool program for low-income children and their families. My project aims to assess the effect of a food-based nutrition education curriculum on preschool children's vegetable liking and consumption. The main goal is to find ways to set kids up for a long and healthy life, because if you learn that broccoli is yummy when you're 5 years old, you're going to keep loving broccoli your whole life. This could make the difference between growing up and being obese, having type II diabetes or hypertension.

EC Scholar impact

The EC Scholar Program has provided me with a tight-knit, supportive, challenging and rewarding community. Over the past four years, Scholars has allowed me to study abroad in Granada, Spain, for a semester to study nutrition and politics, work with migrant farmers in eastern North Carolina, speak at ECU's first TEDx event, apply and be awarded multiple research grants and, most recently, be named a National Truman Fellowship Finalist. Most of all, EC Scholars has helped me find my passion for nutrition.

Hometown: Wake Forest

Year: Senior

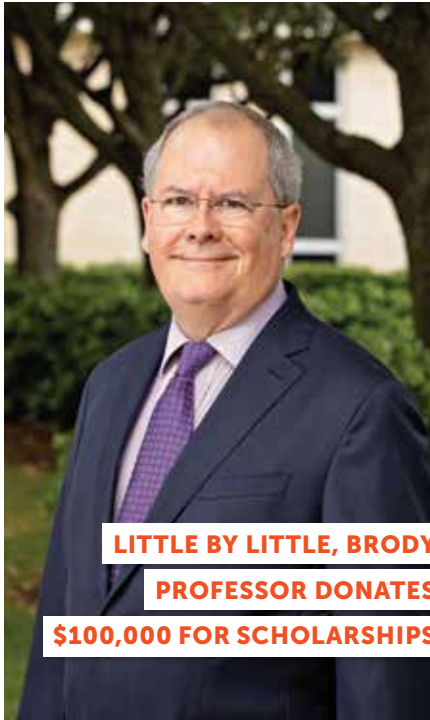
Major: Nutrition science and Hispanic studies

Career goals: Become a registered dietitian with a focus on child health; join the Peace Corps and serve in Latin America

Donor spotlight: Ann Schwarzmans

Ann Schwarzmans '57 '58 was an elementary school teacher and member of the ECU Educators Hall of Fame. She funded two scholarships: one for an EC Scholar within the Honors College and one for a children's theatre major in addition to the Rhem-Schwarzmans Prize for Student Research. Schwarzmans was also a member of the Women's Roundtable and a lifetime member of the ECU Alumni Association.

For information on how to support the Honors College, contact Nate Evans, senior advancement officer, at **252-737-5232** or evansna@ecu.edu.



**LITTLE BY LITTLE, BRODY
PROFESSOR DONATES
\$100,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

In his 35 years at the Brody School of Medicine, Dr. James Peden has helped patients in clinics, supervised residents, served as an attending physician on medical services and overseen the admission of 23 classes of medical students.

And starting in his very first year, 1984, Peden took a little money out of every paycheck and gave it back to the university.

He calls it his “tortoise and the hare” approach to philanthropy. “Obviously, I’m the tortoise,” he says.

Every few years he would up the amount as he was able. At the time of his retirement in June, Peden’s giving surpassed \$100,000 and provided seven scholarships to help students pay for medical school.

The Whitener-Peden Scholarship

honors Peden’s mother, Ann Whitener Peden, and father, James G. Peden. Every year it goes to a Brody student with academic achievement and financial need, preferably from the Hickory area.

Peden is a Hickory native who completed his medical education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was the first graduate of the medicine/psychiatry residency program at West Virginia University-Charleston. He joined the ECU medical faculty because he was drawn to the school’s willingness to work with faculty members on their teaching and clinic goals.

Peden developed ECU’s combined internal medicine/psychiatry residency program before becoming dean of admissions and being charged with selecting 72 to 80 students annually from a typical applicant pool of more than 900. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Medicine and Psychiatry in 2015.

“I knew many of the students here didn’t have the same resources that kids in Raleigh, Durham and Asheville did. Being part of a worthwhile mission and seeing the need for scholarships, I decided to give a little out of every paycheck. The good thing about payroll deduction is you never miss it, because you never see it,” Peden says.

Trevor Hunt, a 2016 recipient of the Whitener-Peden Scholarship, says Peden was one of the reasons he chose to attend the Brody School of Medicine.

“Compared to the admissions deans at the four other schools I interviewed at, Dr. Peden was very personable and more concerned with us applicants rather than just seeing us as another task to cross off before the end of the day,” Hunt says.

Hunt, who is paying his own way through medical school, says the scholarship has given him the freedom to take a research year and pursue his interest in urology without worrying about how much his loans are growing.

“I’d like to thank him for his generosity, for believing in me and for giving me the chance to chase my dreams,” he says. “None of this would be possible without his immense generosity through this scholarship.”

— Erin Shaw



In Memoriam

ALUMNI

1930s

Marjorie D. Jackson '31 of Lake Lure, N.C., on Jan. 25, 2019.

1940s

Marjorie Berson '44 of Raleigh, N.C., on April 29, 2019.
Naomi B. Hofler '47 of Elizabeth City, N.C., on May 28, 2019.
Mary F. Otts '40, of Brewton, Ala., on March 15, 2019.
Doris B. Rodormer '48 of Pompano Beach, Fla., on May 6, 2019.
Dorothy S. Sellers '44 of Shallotte, N.C., on May 11, 2019.
Audrey F. Turner '49 of Burlington, N.C., on May 22, 2019.

1950s

Helen A. Bonner '50 '55 of Aurora, N.C., on April 14, 2019.
Harriet Jean Carter '54 of Massey Hill, N.C., on March 28, 2019.
Dorlas M. Cayton '56 of Greenville, N.C., on April 24, 2019.
Frank Ceruzzi '50 of Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Feb. 21, 2019.
Chuck Cherry '53 of Salisbury, Md., on March 13, 2019.
Fay H. Daniel '54 of Chapel Hill, N.C., on June 2, 2019.
Ella Dobbins '55 of Danielsville, Ga., on May 3, 2019.
Delores Ford '58 of Bethel, N.C., on March 27, 2019.
Carolyn A. Fulghum '59 '65 of Greenville, N.C., on March 6, 2019.
Jeanne W. Ginn '56 of Snow Hill, N.C., on March 17, 2019.
Anne W. Hales '52 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 1, 2019.
Dwight M. Holland '54 of Asheboro, N.C., on May 20, 2019.
Robert S. Hyatt '57 of Greenville, N.C., on June 5, 2019.
Jeanne D. Johnson '56 of Garner, N.C., on Feb. 16, 2019.
William A. Jones '52 of Raleigh, N.C., on June 14, 2019.
Johnnie E. May '57 of Greenville, N.C., on May 22, 2019.
Donald T. Overman '50 of Stantonsburg, N.C., on Jan. 28, 2019.
Thomas H. Shepard '50 of Edenton, N.C., on May 3, 2019.
Donald H. Smith, '57 of Whiteville, N.C., on March 21, 2019.
Jean W. Smith '52 of Creswell, N.C., on March 12, 2019.
John B. Stillely '50 of Rocky Mount, N.C., on May 24, 2019.
Neil T. Stout '51 of Wilmington, N.C., on May 24, 2019.
Janice M. Underseith '57 of Sea Level, N.C., on May 5, 2019.
Douglas Y. Yongue '59 '60 of Laurinburg, N.C., on March 19, 2019.
William Williams '53 of Swan Quarter, N.C., on May 3, 2019.

1960s

Roy H. Arp '60 of St. Petersburg, Fla., on Feb. 23, 2019.
David C. Barnes Jr. '66 of Lenoir, N.C., on April 6, 2019.
Joseph L. Bauerband III '68 of Sanford, N.C., on June 14, 2019.
Janet B. Beaman '67 '70 of Wilson, N.C., on March 18, 2019.
Bobbie M. Blalock '60 of Fredericksburg, Va., on May 5, 2019.
R. Hunter Chadwick '65 of Beaufort, N.C., on June 11, 2019.
Eugene T. Collier '62 of Cameron, N.C., on April 5, 2019.
Judith A. Cox '62 of Georgetown, S.C., on Feb. 2, 2019.
Betty S. Cranor '61 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 11, 2019.
Jim Dagenhart '68 of Walnut Cove, N.C., on March 19, 2019.
William M. "Bill" Davis '68 of Corinth, N.Y., on March 7, 2019.
Marvin D. Etheridge '68 of Mattacha, Fla., on March 29, 2019.
Emma T. Ferguson '65 of Charleston, S.C., on March 6, 2019.
David T. Fowle '62 of Raleigh, N.C., on June 9, 2019.
Brenda A. Hamilton '63 of Pantego, N.C., on Feb. 18, 2019.
Joseph Carl Hayes '66 of Skyco, N.C., on May 9, 2019.
Georgia I. Hickes '63 of Sylva, N.C., on Feb. 21, 2019.
Brenda M. Kinnan '63 of Marietta, Ga., on Feb. 23, 2019.
Patsy A. Magus '62 of Williamsburg, Va., on Feb. 7, 2019.
Bobby R. Mobley '61 of Thomasville, Ga., on May 2, 2019.
Nancy G. Moseley '64 of Littleton, N.C., on Feb. 4, 2019.
Sheila S. O'Daniel '63 of Jacksonville, Fla., on March 22, 2019.
Ira B. Paul Jr. '65 of Washington, N.C., on May 6, 2019.

Bobby B. Sasser '61 of Goldsboro, N.C., on March 11, 2019.
Patricia G. Selby '69 of Pawleys Island, S.C., on March 8, 2019.
Donald W. Stephens '64 of Lexington, N.C., on Feb. 16, 2019.
Jeanette Suggs '69 of Whiteville, N.C., on March 14, 2019.
Barbara W. Westerhouse '61 of Manassas, Va., on May 6, 2019.
James R. Wheatley '63 of Mount Pleasant, S.C., on Feb. 21, 2019.

1970s

Kenneth E. Abernethy '74 of Kinston, N.C., on April 12, 2019.
Terry M. Adcock '76 of Charlotte, N.C., on May 13, 2019.
Fred W. Alcock '77 of Greenville, N.C., on May 16, 2019.
Challie N. Arnette Jr '76 of Greenville, N.C., on March 1, 2019.
Sharon Smith Bostic '73 of Raleigh, N.C., on April 1, 2019.
Virginia C. Bullard '74 of Chadbourne, N.C., on Feb. 5, 2019.
Tony W. Cates '75 of Southern Pines, N.C., on Jan. 30, 2019.
Arthur F. Costantini '79 of Greensboro, N.C., on Feb. 25, 2019.
Janice G. Cox '73 of Southern Pines, N.C., on April 23, 2019.
Thomas C. Dixon III '76 of Knightdale, N.C., on March 17, 2019.
Carl L. Edge '74 of Rocky Mount, N.C., on May 24, 2019.
Sheila M. Fetner '73 of Charlotte, N.C., on May 16, 2019.
Robert H. Franke '73 of Durham, N.C., on Feb. 8, 2019.
Margaret Henderson '71 of Englewood, Fla., on April 22, 2019.
David Jennings '78 of O'Fallon, Ill., on May 4, 2019.
Paton H. Kelley '71 of Raleigh, N.C., on March 1, 2019.
Wayne S. Knight '73 of Arden, N.C., on Feb. 12, 2019.
Phillip K. Lee '75 of Washington, N.C., on May 2, 2019.
Carl D. "Dan" McCombs '78, of Kannapolis, N.C., on March 19, 2019.
Carter M. McKaughan '78 of Wilmington, N.C., on April 2, 2019.
Lee B. Schafer '72 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 22, 2019.
Donald Shook '74 of Valdese, N.C., on March 10, 2019.
Charles L. Stephenson '70 of Greensboro, N.C., on Feb. 28, 2019.
Hicks M. Summey '74 of Martinsville, Va., on March 13, 2019.
Charles R. Thomas Jr. '77 of Jacksonville, Fla., on Jan. 30, 2019.
Hugh T. Wallace III '73 of Myrtle Beach, S.C., on March 3, 2019.
Margaret G. Whitley '76 of Snow Hill, N.C., on May 20, 2019.

1980s

Richard L. Barfield '85 of Mount Olive, N.C., on Feb. 11, 2019.
Susan E. "Beth" Bass '89 of Kenly, N.C., on June 13, 2019.
Gaye C. Boone '82 of Zebulon, N.C., on June 4, 2019.
Robert Brewington '85 of Smithfield, N.C., on April 18, 2019.
Patricia Cockrell '89 of Kenly, N.C., on March 6, 2019.
Mary Lou Creal '87 of Clayton, N.C., on April 3, 2019.
Rhonda P. Eason '82 of Myrtle Beach, S.C., on March 20, 2019.
Janis Fisher '81 of Fayetteville, N.C., on April 26, 2019.
John D. Jeter '80 of Wilmington, N.C., on June 13, 2019.
Norwood K. Teachey Jr. '83 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 16, 2019.
Jo P. Tolbert '89 of Ahoskie, N.C., on March 15, 2019.

1990s

Kevin A. Archer '93 of Greensboro, N.C., on March 7, 2019.
Howard L. Conner '90 of Greenville, N.C., on June 6, 2019.

Christine B. Lange '91 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 17, 2019.
Amanda Reaves-Speller '96 of Greenville, N.C., on May 1, 2019.
Sarah P. Russell '97 of Wilson, N.C., on Dec. 20, 2018.
Cheryl L. Toler '96 of Washington, N.C., on March 19, 2019.
Donald C. Vosburgh '98 of Washington, N.C., on May 4, 2019.
Dawn M. Westbrook '94 of Cary, N.C., on May 20, 2019.

2000s

Beverly G. Cook '07 of Gastonia, N.C., on Feb. 15, 2019.
Christal N. Dietz-Thomas '04 of Wilmington, N.C., on March 26, 2019.
Dennis P. MacQuilliam '06 of Hollywood, Md., on April 29, 2019.
Jennifer M. Supplee '08 of Newport, N.C., on March 21, 2019.

2010s

William C. Burrell '13 of Wake Forest, N.C., on March 7, 2019.
Alex J. Gleim '14 of Mount Pleasant, S.C., on March 18, 2019.
Jeffrey N. Haislip '12 of Oak City, N.C., on May 21, 2019.
William "Bill" Wallace '12 of Asheville, N.C., on April 20, 2019.

FACULTY/STAFF

Willette T. Darden (infirmary) of Greenville, N.C., on Feb. 15, 2019.
Leroy Hooker (housekeeping) of Winterville, N.C., on Feb. 18, 2019.
Bryan Oesterreich (English) of Washington, N.C., on Jan. 31, 2019.
Clinton R. Person (grounds) of Greenville, N.C., on May 3, 2019.
Dr. Teresa M. Plucinski (medicine) of New Bern, N.C., on Feb. 7, 2019.
Sharon Pruitt (art) of Greenville, N.C., on April 9, 2019.
Dianne B. Catlett (library services) of Archdale, N.C., on April 12, 2019.
Faye Carroll (political science) of Bowling Green, Ky., on May 16, 2019.
Caroline Hudnell (cashier's office) of Greenville, N.C., on May 9, 2019.
Doris Nelson (psychology) of Morehead City, N.C., on April 12, 2019.
Albert Brown (mail services) of Greenville, N.C., on May 22, 2019.
Eugene Brunelle (library services) of Fredericksburg, Va., on June 4, 2019.

STUDENTS

Thomas A. Oldham of Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Jan. 4, 2019.
Allison B. Forsythe of Oxford, N.C., on March 1, 2019.
Brandon M. Herrington of Mount Olive, N.C., on March 3, 2019.
Shea Ann Crothers of Monroe Township, N.J., on April 12, 2019.
James "Beau" Stanley of Sneads Ferry, N.C., on April 12, 2019.
Rhonda M. Mangrum of Hillsborough, N.C., on May 28, 2019.
Nicholas "Nicky" Adler of Aberdeen, N.C., on June 27, 2019.
Ian W. Malson of Fayetteville, N.C., on July 22, 2019.



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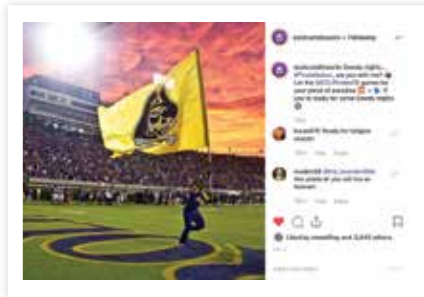
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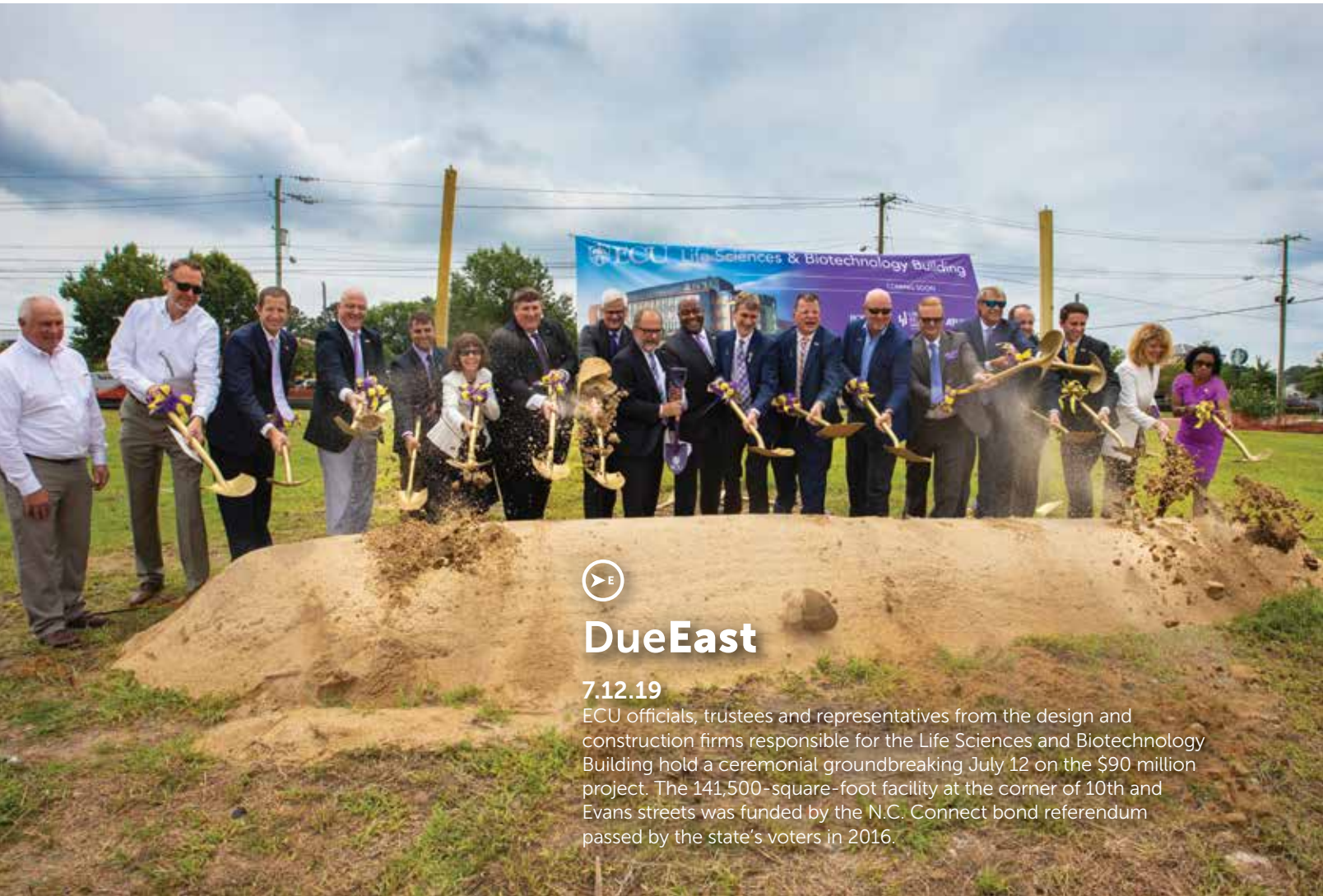
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EAST

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Due East

7.12.19

ECU officials, trustees and representatives from the design and construction firms responsible for the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building hold a ceremonial groundbreaking July 12 on the \$90 million project. The 141,500-square-foot facility at the corner of 10th and Evans streets was funded by the N.C. Connect bond referendum passed by the state's voters in 2016.