



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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MADISON GRIFALDO | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Several ECU students sit together and converse at the bus stop on College Hill, awaiting the in-route ECU Transit busses.

## COVID cases see decrease

### ECU officials credit vaccine numbers, protocols to decline

Breanna Sapp  
TEC STAFF

Following a year of uncertainty regarding COVID-19 cases at East Carolina University, university officials have welcomed a continued decrease in positive case numbers within the community.

According to ECU's Public COVID-19 Dashboard, there have been nine total new cases in the past seven days, as of yesterday. One new case was reported yesterday, as well as a 78% total vaccination rate for ECU students, faculty and staff. Additionally, there was a four day period from Oct. 28 until Oct. 31 without any new positive COVID-19 cases on campus.

ECU has seen a continued decrease in COVID-19 cases since Oct. 15, with five cases reported on that day, according to the COVID-19 Dashboard. The university saw a peak number of 90 new COVID-19 cases on Sept. 4, less than a month after ECU students, faculty and staff returned to campus for an in-person fall 2021 semester.

Director of Student Health Services (SHS) LaNika Wright said the number of COVID-19 cases at ECU have decreased drastically within the 2021-2022 academic year. COVID-19 cases picked up slightly as of Nov. 9, Wright said, though numbers have remained manageable for the university.

"I definitely think that the vaccine has helped with us being able to, you know, have this under control a little more. I think definitely wearing masks in indoor spaces on campus have made a difference in our ability to continue to function and not have large spreads of the virus across campus," Wright said. "I think those mitigating factors, the vaccine and mask compliance, have been huge in helping us be effective."

COVID-19 vaccinations have had a substantial impact on COVID-19 case numbers, Wright said, as well as an increase in isolation and quarantine spaces for individuals, indoor mask mandates and other university prevention efforts. In comparison to the initial spike of cases in the fall 2020 semester, Wright said she feels as though the university is better prepared to handle increases in COVID-19 case numbers alongside proactive vaccination efforts.

The university has followed similar case number trends as Pitt County throughout the pandemic, Wright said, though controlling factors like classroom seating arrangements and indoor mask mandates allow the university to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 more

effectively. She said other universities throughout North Carolina have followed similar case trends as ECU over the past year.

The university believes that any new COVID-19 case numbers are not transmitted through classroom or university settings, Wright said, and university officials expect to see a slight rise in cases at the beginning of January 2022 following visits home, family gatherings and holiday celebrations. SHS will continue to provide COVID-19 services throughout the semester, such as testing and vaccinations, Wright said.

ECU students can receive their COVID-19 vaccine booster from the booster clinics hosted by SHS at the Main Campus Student Center up until Thanksgiving break begins on Nov. 24. SHS will offer boosters for ECU community members who received the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) or Moderna vaccine.

"Personally, without the knowledge of any strains of the virus the way delta (COVID-19 variant) was, you know, any strains of the virus that are as contagious and crazy as delta was, I think we'll be able to ride out the rest of the semester with a pretty low number," Wright said.

> COVID page A2



LaNika Wright



Chris Stansbury

## Fall graduation begins final preparations

Breanna Sapp  
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University (ECU) graduates prepare to finish the fall semester, ECU officials have begun to make final preparations for the Fall 2021 University Commencement on Dec. 17.

Associate Vice Chancellor and Senior Operating Officer Chris Stansbury said ECU will have two separate university ceremonies at Minges Coliseum with no limit on the amount of guest tickets for graduates. The departments of Business, Education, Fine Arts and Communication and Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences will be at 9 a.m. and the departments of Allied Health Sciences, Brody School of Medicine, Engineering and Technology, Health and Human Performance, and Nursing will be at 1 p.m.

Stansbury said due to COVID-19 and financial difficulties, ECU will not conduct individual department ceremonies as seen in the past. Since 2019, he said the pandemic has had an impact on resources and funding necessary to arrange for staffing at department ceremonies. Other than these changes, Stansbury said the ceremony will look similar to previous ceremonies with the traditional chancellor's address to graduates, a keynote speaker and more.

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

"Come out to the university ceremony, bring your family and friends with you, make it a big event like it should be," Stansbury said. "And, the pandemic has stolen a lot from everybody, don't let it steal the joy of the success of completing your college degree. That's such a big part of somebody's life."

Chancellor Philip Rogers said in an email statement that he is excited to see Pirates graduate in a few short weeks. He hopes students take the time to celebrate with family and friends and appreciate all they have gone through to reach this milestone.

It's been a tough two years for the country and the ECU campus due to COVID-19, Rogers said, but he said he believes it has made the group of future alumni more prepared and capable of handling what the future has in store for them.

"Our (ECU) goal in planning ECU's Fall (2021) Commencement ceremonies has been to make sure our students and their families get an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments they have worked so hard for while remaining healthy," Rogers said.

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

## Volleyball will play in two away matches

Reyna Crooms  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University volleyball (9-14, 5-9 American Athletic Conference) will play in two games over the weekend against the University of Houston (21-5, 11-3 AAC) on Friday and Tulane University (15-11, 8-6 AAC) on Sunday.

The Pirates most recently played against the University of Central Florida (20-6, 13-1 AAC) on Nov. 7 in Greenville, North Carolina. The team lost 0-3 on alumni day in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

UCF won all three sets against East Carolina 25-20, 25-1 and 25-22. The conference game started off with a tie between the two teams in the first set. UCF pulled ahead for the remainder of the game hitting a .394 while ECU hit a .226.

> PIRATES page A6

## New music initiative returns

Audrey Duke  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's School of Music (SoM) will hold its annual New Music Initiative concert tomorrow from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the A.J. Fletcher recital hall at which students will collaborate together and perform original pieces by student composers.

Christopher Ulfers, the director of the SoM and professor of bassoon, said the New Music Initiative has been around for decades and is a good way to bring light to newer, more modern music that comes out. This concert serves as a world premiere of music that SoM students have written and it gives them a chance to have their compositions heard by an audience, Ulfers said.

"My role as director is to allow faculty to do the great work that they do, and then to help them facilitate that great work," Ulfers said. "The student performers and the student composers collaborate together, and it's really



AUDREY DUKE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students rehearse for the New Music Initiative concert which will take place on Thursday.

important that our performers support our composers and vice versa."

The student composers and the student performers have been working for months on their compositions, Ulfers said. They will use brand new techniques and new ways to play their instruments that they have never used before, so it has taken a little longer than normal to prepare

these pieces because they may have never performed these new techniques before, he said.

The New Music Initiative was founded by Ed Jacobs, who is a professor at the SoM and connects both the students and the audience with new, 21st century

> MUSIC page A5

### ONLINE

» ARTS: "Patriot" multi-faceted arts show to premiere tomorrow

» Check out our website for activities, photo galleries and more

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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## BRIEFS

## LWCC to discuss social impact of film

Today, the East Carolina University Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) will host its November Reel Talk at 6 p.m. in room 100B in the Main Campus Student Center. This month's film will be "Indian Horse" which is about a boy who was stripped of his heritage at a residential school and refuge when he discovers his passion for hockey. There will be a discussion following the film.

## QTPOC to explore impacts of LGBTQ minorities

Tomorrow, the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center will host QTPOC (Queer and Trans People of Color) at 6 p.m. in suite 211 in the Main Campus Student Center. QTPOC offers an opportunity to build community and explore the issues impacting students at the intersections of race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender.

## WGO to host weekly Feminist Friday

Friday, the East Carolina University Women and Gender Office (WGO) will host its Feminist Friday discussion series at 1 p.m. in suit 108 in the Main Campus Student Center. A variety of topics will be discussed in the event such as gender, current events and supporting one another.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



HALIE MILLER / THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU career and mental health counselors encourage fall 2021 graduates to prepare for new normal as they begin to enter post-graduate life.

# Graduates to anticipate future

## ECU counselors guide seniors for life, workforce after university

Emily Bronson  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

As East Carolina University seniors prepare for commencement in December, ECU career and mental health counselors encourage seniors to prepare for the uncertainty that comes with post-graduate life and the workforce.

Allison Crowe, associate professor of counselor education, said the best thing December graduates can do is to start preparing for a new normal. She said all transitions in life are difficult and the best thing to do, despite the fear of it, is to know that change is not necessarily a bad thing.



Allison Crowe

"As a professional counselor, I would say to remember that transitions are really difficult. So when you graduate, when you move out of your home, when you get married, when you start a new job, as much as those things can be really exciting, they can also be difficult, and I don't think we talk about the underbelly of the transitions. Those are really hard times," Crowe said.

Post-graduate depression is not an illness that is talked about enough, Crowe said, but as common as depression and anxiety are in this stage of life, they are still widely stigmatized.

Crowe said that she knows ECU has fantastic counseling resources on campus and a team of mental health professionals that are eager to help ECU students navigate times of discouragement, but she also said that she thinks more could be done to help prepare seniors for the ambiguities of the work world.

"One of the things I research is stigma, and stigma is another word for the negative attitudes that people have about mental health and mental health treatment," Crowe said. "Depression and anxiety, as common as they are, are very stigmatized still, and people have a hard time saying 'I need help' and 'I am struggling and I'm not doing well'."

Tom Halasz, operations director at the Career Services Office, said uncertainty is something all people encounter at some point in their life, but significant uncertainty greets young adults after graduation.

Halasz said the college experience offers a lot of certainty with academic plans, schedules and to-do lists for four years. He said as soon as that is gone when one enters the workforce, the lack of a steady timeline can be intimidating.

"Most people don't handle uncertainty well. What we know about the college experience is, generally, a great deal of certainty. You have a plan to achieve your academic success that

would be your major course of study," Halasz said.

Intimidation of the unknown might be common in post-graduate life, Halasz said, but he knows ECU students are well prepared for the workforce because while in school, they have an endless amount of resources at their fingertips. He said the best thing for an ECU senior to do before graduation is to take advantage of those resources and career counselors.

Sarah Barkley, a senior communication major graduating in December, said that she is looking forward to seeing the opportunities that lie beyond Greenville, North Carolina, and the classroom, but she is worried about finding a job that will support her.

Her time at ECU, Barkley said, has helped her master the basic requirements of her field, but she said she would be uncomfortable if she was hired to a news staff because she feels inexperienced.

"Just the unknown of what I am going to do with my degree and if I can get an internship with it because of COVID regulations, studios aren't letting a lot of people in them right now," Barkley said.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

## ECU SCUBA DIVING

### DIVE IN AND EXPLORE

Basic SCUBA (KINE 2278), Advanced SCUBA (KINE 5278), SCUBA Leadership (KINE 3278), SCUBA Instructor (KINE 4278)

Get course credit while becoming certified to explore our underwater world! Classes offered during fall, spring, and summer sessions.

Any questions?

Contact:

Captain Clint Etheridge  
etheridgec@ecu.edu



## COVID continued from A1

Associate Vice Chancellor of Safety and Auxiliary Services William Koch said in an email statement that the university is pleased with the way the ECU campus community has responded to vaccine opportunities and are now at 78% of campus meeting vaccination requirements and employees achieving 85% as of yesterday. Koch said the current vaccination rate is a "great place to be" and the university hopes to continue to see that number increase.

In a COVID-19 Matrix Scoring update, Koch said despite improvements in testing compliance and vaccination rates on campus, additional progress is needed to decrease the risk of COVID-19 throughout campus. On-campus risk remains low for students, faculty and staff with an average of one to two new cases per day over the last three weeks as of yesterday and the campus positivity rate continues to stay below 1%, Koch said.

"Although there has been improvement over the last week, about 16% (169 individuals) of our unvaccinated students still failed to get tested within the prescribed time frame," Koch said.

The transmission rate of COVID-19 in Pitt County, alongside Vidant Medical Center's reduced hospital capacity has allowed the university to remain at a moderate risk level, Koch said. He said the moderate risk level means there are no changes to community expectations.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID Data Tracker continues to classify Pitt County as an area of Substantial community transmission, Koch said. He said Pitt County residents and ECU community members are advised to continue to wear a mask in public and indoor settings as community transmission continues.

ECU students who were not vaccinated, or showed proof of their vaccination status, were required to participate in COVID-19 surveillance testing throughout the fall semester.

Students who failed to provide documentation of COVID-19 testing during the fall semester were notified on Oct. 22 that their Pirate ID would be deactivated if they did not take action by 6 p.m. on Oct. 26, Koch said. By Monday, 595 of 745 deactivated student accounts were in compliance and reinstated, Koch said.

"We also had success with individuals following our mask and other health safety guidelines this semester. Remaining vigilant is key," Koch said. "The pandemic is still going

on and we can't let our guard down too much especially as we approach the holidays."

Anabeth Harper, sophomore criminal justice major, said she's seen a noticeable decrease in COVID-19 cases across the university's campus since the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. As a front desk worker at Jones Residence Hall, she said she hasn't heard of many recent cases occurring within the residence halls.

The initial spike of COVID-19 cases when students returned to campus for the school year was understandable, Harper said, considering there were many social interactions and gatherings taking place among freshman and other students on and off campus.

Harper said she feels comfortable with the case numbers on ECU's campus and is hoping for a better sense of normalcy as COVID-19 cases continue to decline at the university. ECU has spread a lot of awareness about COVID-19 prevention, Harper said, though she does wish there was more transparency from ECU officials regarding overall case patterns between the university and students.

"I think it's (university efforts towards COVID-19) been pretty dead center. I feel like there are things they've been doing that I don't think is enough but then there's also things they're doing that might be too much, like the restrictions on people in the dorms," Harper said. "I feel like at this point if you're going to let the maximum amount of students on campus then we should be letting people do the same stuff that was happening before we shut down."

During the spring 2020 semester, ECU moved its course instruction entirely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The university returned to face-to-face instruction delivery during the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year with an eight-week block schedule. ECU eventually returned to online instruction on Aug. 26, 2020 due to the number of COVID-19 clusters that occurred on the university's campus.

Since the transition, ECU had continued to monitor the number of COVID-19 positive cases and rate of infection among students and employees throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. Students was able to return fully on campus for face-to-face instruction during the fall 2021 semester with COVID-19 protocols in place.

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



Anabeth Harper



William Koch

## OUR VIEW

### Sonic Plaza repair plans lack initiative

The Sonic Plaza, located between Joyner East and Joyner Library on East Carolina University's campus, is scheduled to have updated repairs made to its gates while other aspects of the audio-visual art installation are under delay.

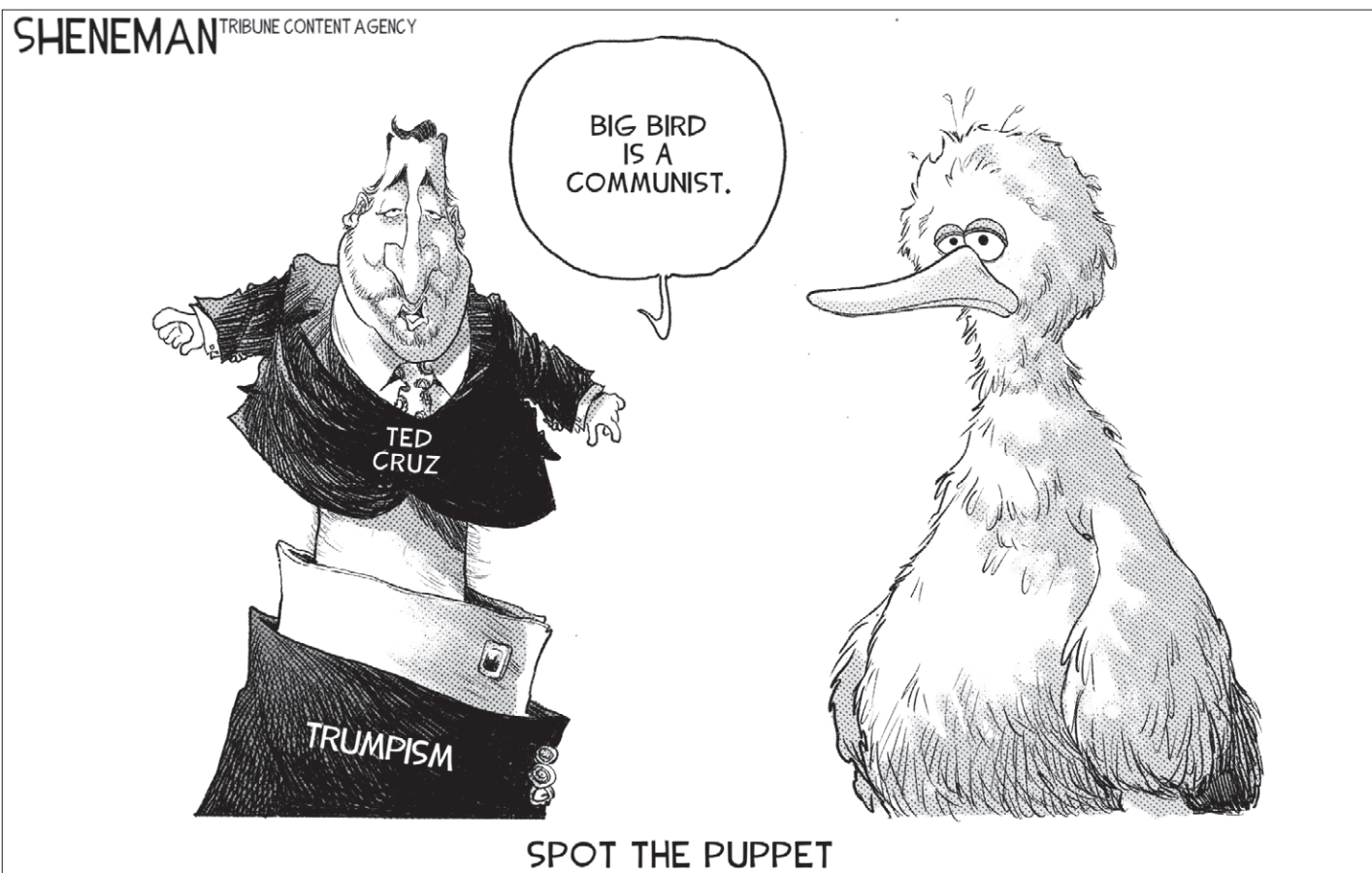
The awaited repairs will come after it was announced the Sonic Gates were set to be repaired for the fall semester of 2021. ECU teaching instructor William McClung from the department of technology systems was sent to look at the exhibit back in 2020, but he came to the conclusion it was more work than anticipated, and the project was halted.

Before the pause of the Sonic Plaza, which is filled with four art pieces meant to include audio and visuals, students would be able to walk through the Joyner East and Joyner Library courtyard with subtle music notes, water features and visual media.

As it stands now, students are unable to feel that sense of artistic connection to this portion of ECU's main campus as the Sonic Plaza was once a staple to the university community. Some freshman and sophomores at this time may not even be aware of what the Sonic Plaza is or once was.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe there has been lack of initiative regarding the temporarily-forgotten Sonic Plaza and its primary purpose and existence here at ECU. Future repairs of the Sonic Plaza are essential and we hope to see more information shared as the renovations continue.

We look forward to seeing it returned to its former glory for the student body and others to enjoy.



## » SENIOR COLUMN

# College, TEC gifted me passion

## Academic hurdles did not limit my student success

### On a Soapbox



**Cayla Menges**  
TEC COLUMNIST

When I started college four years ago I had no direction or aspirations for my post-graduate career. If you were to tell me at 18 years old I would be where I am today, I might not believe it.

I entered East Carolina University as a criminal justice major but quickly changed to communication as I realized I had no interest in politics. I spent the majority of my freshman year jumping from party to party, skipping class and ultimately ending the year with a .08 GPA. I had failed myself, my family and my professors. Embarrassment was one of the many emotions I felt as I spent the summer picking up the pieces of a failed first year.

It wasn't until the fall semester of my

sophomore year that the pieces started to fall into place. I was retaking one of the classes I failed, creative writing, where I fell madly in love with the art of writing.

In hopes to make a career out of writing I chose a journalism concentration for my major. It was the second week of my Media Writing and Reporting course when staff members of The East Carolinian (TEC) came to class advertising the newspaper's tryouts. I took a leap of faith and tried out, knowing nothing about news writing but hoping my passion for writing would shine through.

For two years I've called TEC home and its employees' family. I've received white house press passes, developed professional relationships and written over 100 articles. At times it was tough; it would be a lie to say the life of a student journalist isn't tedious, tiring and sometimes unfair, but always worth it. TEC completed my college experience, giving me discipline

When I look back on the last four years, I'm reminded of the hurdles I've crossed to get to this point. I think about the day my parents moved me into my dorm, wishing me luck not knowing I would desperately need it. I reminisce on sleepless nights spent in Joyner Library, fried chicken Wednesdays and the many faces I've met. I used to think my freshman year experience was the worst thing that happened to me during college, but now I realize it was a blessing in disguise. Without all the struggle I wouldn't have made it here today, proudly representing my family as a first-generation college graduate. To anyone who has triumphed over the hurdles of life, remember how far you've come and always be proud of that.

Once a fighter, always a fighter. Cayla Menges signing off for the last time.

Menges is a senior majoring in communication and a guest columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse the statements made in Pirate Rants.

Embarrassing to see the signs on campus asking people not to throw confetti, only to see the ground around the sign littered with confetti.

Campus Towers is in desperate need of an exterior renovation. It stands out like a sore thumb when you drive into Greenville toward campus.

Why does the university wait so long to release final details about graduation? It's so unfortunate for out-of-state students who have families that need to prepare way ahead of time!

Bring back individual department ceremonies!!

Class is always so awkward for no reason... like y'all are paying to go here. SAY SOMETHING.

People think those flashing lights on crosswalks replace looking both ways.

Bet no one knows the City of Greenville will be adding a large civic center building to the Town Common, taking away a decent sized chunk of the ONLY green space this city has.

Professors should alleviate class absences because we are just coming out of a pandemic and we really haven't had it in person classes for a very long time.

Questions regarding Pirate Rants can be directed to Jennifer Sieg at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

Submit your Pirate Rants on our website under the opinion tab or scan the QR code.



# Music uplifts your mental health

### More with Michelle



**Michelle Mazzei**  
TEC COLUMNIST

Music is a crucial part of my life as it is involved while I am doing everyday habits and is associated with my mental health. No matter what music genre I listen to, it makes me feel as if I am not lonely in the world.

One thing that has saved my life is music. It is all around us as it is on the radio when you get in the car, in the background of TV shows or movies, any sort of videos or played in restaurants. The list is neverending.

I listen to music 24/7. I do not have a specific favorite music genre since I listen to various genres. It could be rap, alternative, rock, classics, I listen to it all. Music has helped me cope; music always makes me feel good.

Whether it be when I am walking to class, taking my dog out, driving or just being around my house, music has, is, and will always be a part of my life.

Music has kept me sane through-out several dark times in my life. It has

additionally been there for me when I have been my happiest.

One's mental health can be improved with music as lyrics often relate to what one feels. Artists often go through similar hard times as the average person does. Everyone has struggled in some sort of way. Most music artists have also been through some difficulties and obstacles during their lifetime. The fact that music artists can form lyrics to touch various amounts of individuals is breathtaking.

I am not musically talented at all. I cannot sing, write music for the life of me or play any sort of instrument. With that being said, I admire the music artists in today's society. I wish I could speak to people through music as music has spoken to me.

Different types of music create different feelings in every person. Individuals have the opportunity to listen to what makes them feel happy, excited, or even sad and depressed.

I listen to music according to my current mood or the way I am feeling. The lyrics make me feel as if I am not alone when I feel as if I do not belong.

Music has helped me, alongside many

people I know, mentally and physically. For example, when I have felt at my lowest point in life, the band LANY had a serious impact on my life. LANY has written several songs about breakups, coping with sadness and loneliness, just as I felt and currently feel at times. You can just sit there and listen to the artist's words, relate, and feel like you're not alone.

I had the privilege to see LANY in concert a few weeks ago, and I had the time of my life. It was the best night just to see that I, again, wasn't the only one to feel alone or sad and

could relate to LANY and the things they write, produce and release.

I am not the only one who feels depressive thoughts and enjoys music that helps one feel better. LANY is not the only band who has had a positive impact on my life.

As stated before, my music taste varies, but just to list a few music groups or artists who have helped improve my mental health is Maroon 5, Queen, Glass Animals, Mac Miller, The 1975 alongside several others whom I listen to on the daily.

Mazzei is a senior majoring in communication and a guest columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

ONLINE | FULL STORY

# OUR STAFF

<b>Chloe Easton</b>	Editor-in-Chief	<b>Brendan Cavazos</b>	Sports Editor
<b>George Martin</b>	Managing Editor	<b>Markayla McInnis</b>	Sports Chief
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<b>Emily Peek</b>	Arts Chief	<b>Olivia Magistro</b>	Assistant Production Manager

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## Contact Info

The East Carolinian  
Mendenhall Main Floor,  
Greenville, NC, 27858-4353

Email: [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com)

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?  
Got something for sale?  
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**  
Contact [smas@ecu.edu](mailto:smas@ecu.edu) for more information.



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Things may not go as planned. Obstacles could interrupt or delay team efforts. Forgive miscommunications and persist, but gently. Don't argue with a brick wall.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 — Extra patience serves you well, especially with your partner. Don't push your own beliefs onto others. Tempers may be short. Talk things over later.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Revise and edit carefully before making public statements. Your main ideas could get tested. Ignore rumors and gossip. Stick to the basic facts.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — Work precisely to navigate a tricky situation. Follow instructions and regulations carefully or things could get awkward. Avoid hasty assumptions. Heed the voice of experience.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Prioritize health, wellness and vitality. Discipline requires physical effort. Things may not work as expected. Take it slow around tight corners. Proceed with caution.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Finances could seem in a state of flux. Wait on a large purchase. Follow rules carefully. Avoid risky business. Obstacles, delays and barriers abound.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — Revise plans around an obstacle. An old method doesn't work in a new situation. Don't launch until all the pieces are in place.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 6 — Creative work has a bittersweet flavor. Avoid losing your cool with a loved one. Patience saves you time and stress. Consider consequences before committing.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Your feelings could change. Avoid a personal conflict of interests. Routines provide comfort and stability. Learn from your own experience. Your discipline is admirable.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 6 — Patiently compare before purchasing. Don't waste your money on something unnecessary. Minimize risks or arguments. Financial delays or restraints could be irritating. Stick to basics.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — Get more than one bid before making a domestic renovation. Keep your patience, especially with someone who doesn't. Wait for better conditions. Update plans.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Lay low and take it easy. Avoid risk, travel or controversy. A private place suits your mood. Misinformation and rumors swirl. Enjoy peaceful pursuits.

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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKIT



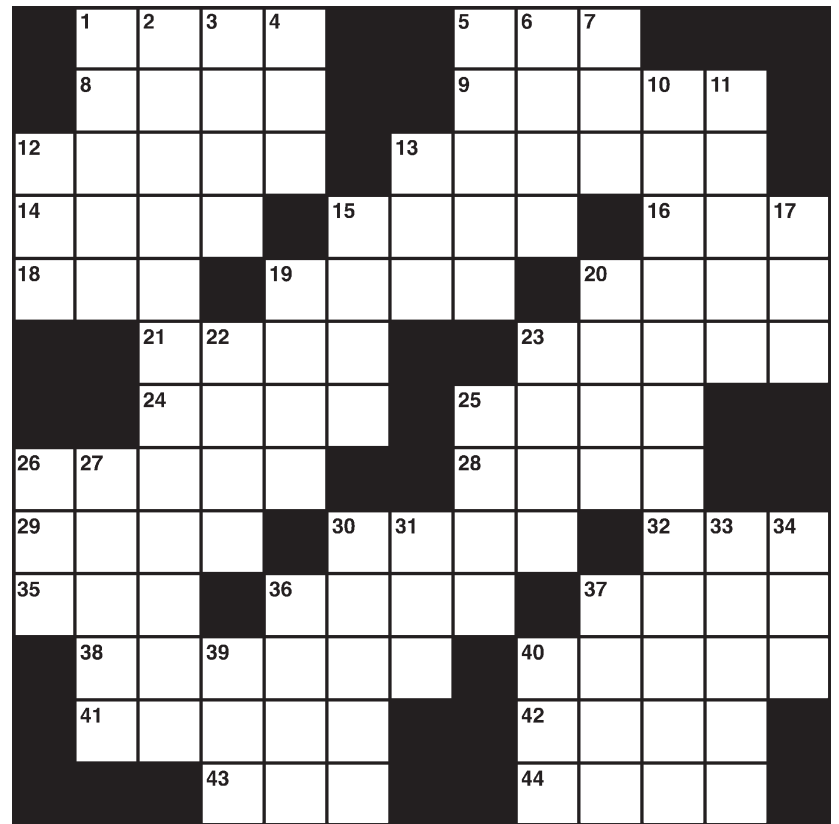
### BLISS



## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

**ACROSS**

- "The Price Is Right" host
- "Baby, Take a \_\_\_"; Shirley Temple film
- Rant and \_\_\_; carry on
- Linda Lavin series
- "Late Night with \_\_\_ O'Brien"
- "\_\_\_ No Deal"
- No ifs, \_\_\_, or buts
- Ride the waves
- Long or Peebles
- Susan of "L.A. Law"
- McClanahan's namesakes
- Jillian & Curry
- Pebbles' pop
- Actress Marcia \_\_\_
- Boys
- Will of "The Waltons"
- Thicke & Arkin
- "\_\_\_ Window"; classic James Stewart movie
- Rapper Snoop \_\_\_
- Ballerina's support
- Premium cable channel

**DOWN**

- "The \_\_\_ and the Pussycat"; Streisand film
- Hoodlum
- "The First \_\_\_"; Yuletide song
- Spookier
- "\_\_\_ Judy"
- Mex. misses
- "Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah"
- 180 degrees from WNW
- "Empty \_\_\_"
- Stingless male bee
- Actor on "Chicago Fire"
- Gabor & Longoria
- Ming-Na \_\_\_
- Actor Max & his family
- Snowman in Disney's "Frozen"
- Actor Wheaton
- Role on "Chicago Med"
- Moran & Burnett
- Womanizer
- "\_\_\_ Date"; Robert Downey Jr. film
- Soapy lather
- Beast of burden
- Skelton & Barber
- Zone
- "You \_\_\_?"; Lurch's line on "The Addams Family"
- Average grades
- "Dharma & \_\_\_"
- "Much \_\_\_ About Nothing"
- Actor Rob & his family
- One of \_\_\_ days; eventually
- "Days of \_\_\_ Lives"
- Father children
- "Grand \_\_\_ Opry"
- Mowry & Carrere
- Unclothed
- Mailman's beat: abbr.
- One of the girls on "The Brady Bunch"

**Solution from 11/03**

A	V	A	P	E	A	R	L	F	A	T
P	A	L	I	N	D	I	A	A	N	O
A	L	I	S	T	O	O	L	M	G	M
R	E	M	I	T	A	B	I	E	S	
S	I	M	O	N	C	O	W	E	L	L
A	L	O	A	F	T	Y	S			
			T	N	T					
A	M	A	T	O	E	R	R			
M	E	G	D	O	N	N	E	L	L	Y
V	A	L	O	R	I	S	A	I	D	
I	N	E	E	L	L	A	S	C	E	E
C	D	E	A	M	I	L	E	E	L	M
S	A	S	M	A	Z	A	R	Y	D	S

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## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level



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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 11/03

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

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EVERY FRIDAY

EVENTS

TODAY

**“Thando” November Exhibition**  
The Art Lab  
729 Dickinson Ave.  
Noon to 8 p.m.  
(252) 551-6947

TOMORROW

**Paint Your Pet**  
Savor Art and Dine  
2245 Stantonsburg Road  
Noon to 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

**JAZZ Night**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
630 S. Pitt St.  
8 to 11 p.m.  
(252) 227-4151

**Cosmic Charlie Presents “Dark Side of the Dead”**  
The State Theatre  
110 W. Fifth St.  
7:30 p.m. to midnight  
(919) 828-4444

**Faculty Artist: Davids Arcus, Organ**  
School of Music  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
401 E. 4th St.  
(252) 328-6851

## Professor releases fiction novel

**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF

Twenty years in the making, East Carolina University professor Christy Hallberg recently released her novel “Searching for Jimmy Page,” a fictional story that draws on some of her own life experiences.

Published on Oct. 20 by Livingston Press at the University of West Alabama, “Searching for Jimmy Page” is available for purchase for around \$20 from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, Indiebound and various independent bookstores around North Carolina. Hallberg will hold a reading from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on tomorrow from in the Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery on the second floor of Joyner Library.

The novel follows the story of a girl whose mother’s death prompts her to go on the search for the legendary Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, whom her mother told her was her biological father. This story, while not autobiographical, draws on events from Hallberg’s own life. Hallberg said her mother died of cancer after she had just begun working on her Master of Fine Arts thesis work at Goddard College. She wrote the first form of the novel as a part of that MFA thesis.

“I promised her that I would finish it, and I did finish my MFA, but I didn’t really do anything with the book,” Hallberg said. “I used it to meet the criteria to finish my degree but I really didn’t pursue publication, or not in any serious way, and I knew it needed a lot of revision and I did not have the creative energy to do it. I was just grappling with my own grief.”

In 2005, Hallberg made a journey of her own to London in search

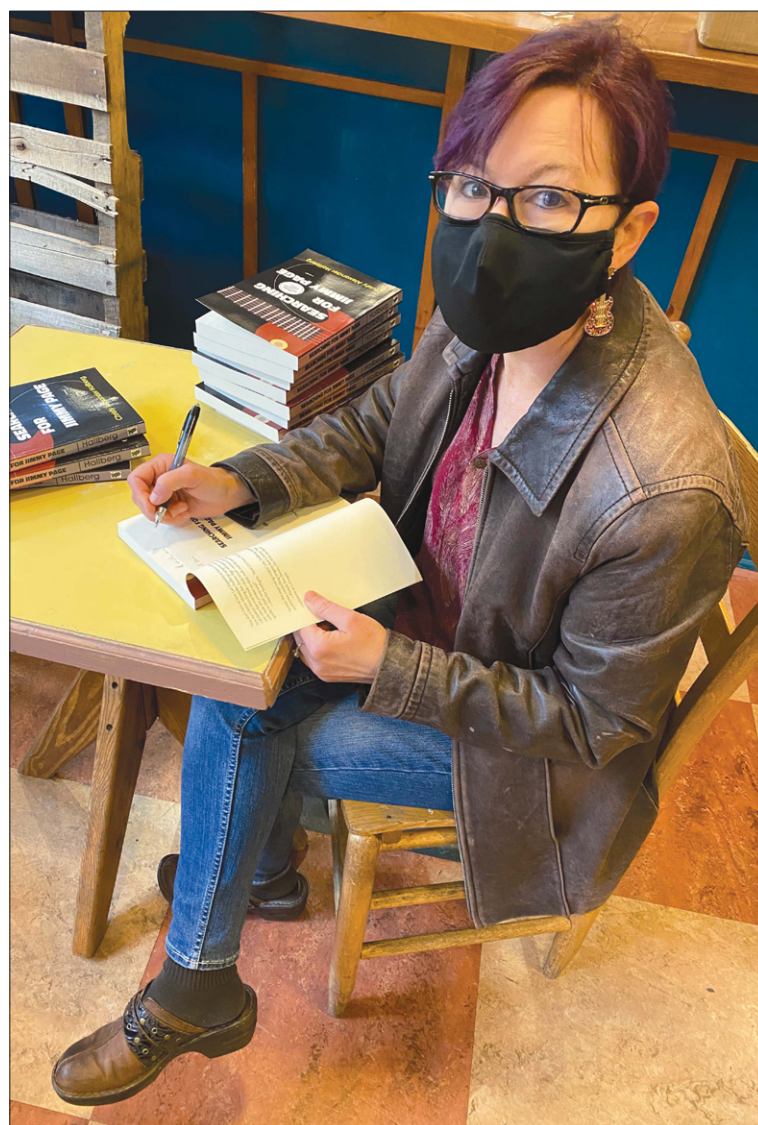
of Jimmy Page because he and his music was an important part of her life. She said she felt she needed to do something radical to shake herself out of her grief and after finding and meeting Page she said she felt she was able to “get back to living.”

Hallberg said her husband always loved the story of when she met Jimmy Page and always said she should write a book about the experience. Following her husband’s death from cancer in 2014 she resolved to use writing as a way to heal so the next iteration of the novel became a memoir of the trip. In the end, Hallberg said she decided to adapt the book again to fiction.

Margaret Bauer, Harriot College distinguished professor and editor of the North Carolina Literary Review (NCLR), said she read the novel as Hallberg wrote it chapter by chapter when it was in the form of a memoir. She said she read the manuscript again, at least in part, when it was taking its final form.

“A lot of people’s first novels are autobiographical, and the fact that it’s really not, even though she draws on personal experience, is impressive. But also she has sold more advance copies of the book, before it was even published, that particular press reported that it had sold more advance copies than any book they published,” Bauer said.

Professor Emerita Liza Wieland said they have worked together at ECU for many years and said she too has read the novel when it was in various forms. She said the novel offers something to many different types of readers as the story has elements of a mother daughter story, a “rock and roll narrative” influenced by music



Christy Hallberg signs books at Malaprop’s Bookstore in Asheville, North Carolina.

and a picture of what life is like in eastern North Carolina.

“What I look for in a book is the language and the beauty of the language and how the writer constructs a sentence and strings the sentences together and develops character and I have found this book to be just a marvel on all those levels,” Wieland said. “The writing is beautiful. Christy is also a poet and you can kind of tell that there’s some acute sensibility about words going on in her prose.”

Like Bauer, Wieland noted the novel’s connection to eastern North Carolina. She said this aspect of would appeal to locals as people tend to like to read about themselves and experiences to which they can relate. But then the novel opens out into a journey away from the familiar and takes the reader on that journey.

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

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## TRYOUTS

**Jan. 18**  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Jan. 19 & 20**  
9 a.m. - noon  
OR 2 - 4 p.m.

Tryouts are held in the Pirate Media 1 newsroom in Mendenhall on the main floor. Bring a pen/pencil and a bluebook. One hour is allotted for tryouts.

No experience needed.  
All majors are welcome.

Students must have a 2.25 GPA or higher to apply.

For more information, contact Cherie Speller at spellerch16@ecu.edu.

## MUSIC continued from A1

music. Ulfers said concerts were extremely hard to put on last year because of COVID-19, so everyone is excited to be able to perform for a live audience.

“Come out and see our students play and hear our students perform and hear what our students have composed; these are really fine musicians, and we need to support them as much as we can,” Ulfers said.

Travis Alford, the director of the New Music Initiative and an assistant professor of music composition and theory at the SoM, said that the concert was created in order to bring in world class musicians who specialize in new music to the school. The program has two main branches: the guest artist residency program and the commissioning program.



Travis Alford

During the guest artist residency program, new music initiative musicians are able to spend time on campus, Alford said. They stay for a multi-day residency, which includes a concert of their own music, a reading section for pieces by ECU student composers and hold many kinds of master classes, he said. The commissioning program is a three-year cycle that allows students to find different composers to write a piece of music for the SoM and eventually come to the school and have that piece performed and recorded.

“The guest residency program helps the students because these are professionals working in the field that they want to go into, so they get to make contacts, they get lessons with these musicians and for composers, they get really good recordings of their pieces,” Alford said.

The performance tomorrow is one of three premiere performances that happen this year and is solely music from ECU student composers, Alford said. He said student composers will find a student performer and together they will rehearse and then eventually premier this piece of music.

It is important for composers to get recordings of their pieces because they are able to work with the performers and have a good recording to add to their portfolio for future experiences, Alford said. The community benefits from these concerts because it opens up the audience’s minds to sounds they may have never heard before, and hear what living composers in America are working on, he said.

“I definitely hope that everyone attends,

this is free and open to the public, it is a chance to show off our composers, a chance to show off our wonderful performers and a chance to stretch your ears,” Alford said. “Come in with no expectations of what the music should sound like and sit and see what our students have come up with.”

Nathan Jasper, a junior vocal performance and composition double major, said the New Music Initiative was a way to bring in new music, both with contemporary and modern composers as well as student composers. He said when composers are writing music for their premiere performance, they can write it for an ensemble, three or four instruments, a duet or even a solo piece.

It is very helpful for ECU music students when the composers commission perform their own written piece for the SoM and give master classes, Jasper said. These master classes are held for the composition students at which they show students how they use their instrument and how to work and play it in new ways and get insight from an outside perspective, he said.

“You see your teachers all the time and so you are used to their perspective but, as a commissioned composer from the SoM, that’s an entirely new thing, and it’s a breath of fresh air really, that outside perspective,” Jasper said.

In order to prepare for these performances, every student has a different approach to how they want to prepare, Jasper said. There is no clear-cut way to go about preparation because the entire event is student run, and every person would have a different answer, besides just simply putting on the best show they can, he said.

When choosing a composer to come to the SoM, it’s a collective effort among the students; they all vote on their three favorites and the composer that was chosen is asked to come in for the New Music Initiative, Jasper said. This year Lei Liang was the composer that was chosen, and he performed on Oct. 23. His performance and time at ECU were supposed to happen last year but, because of COVID-19 the concert had to be moved back to this year.

“It (New Music Initiative) is a way to bring in new music, both with contemporary and modern composers as well as student composers,” Jasper said. “I think it’s amazing, everyone has the same clear-cut goal of giving the best performance you can.”

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

## TEC 'spertz

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's football matchup

### Markayla McInnis

Sports chief  
@m3\_mcinnis



**ECU vs Memphis on 11/13**

**Score Prediction?**

35-24 ECU wins

**Why?** ECU should definitely be able

to top Memphis. As long as ECU stops the quarterback, keeps the defense strong, and like (Holton) Alhers did last week, spread the ball throughout the whole offense.

### Brendan Cavazos

Sports editor  
@bcvaz\_xi



**ECU vs Memphis on 11/13**

**Score Prediction?**

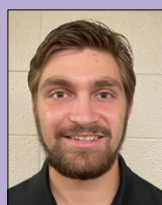
31-24 ECU wins

**Why?** I think the ECU defense should

be able to hold the Memphis offense to less than the 30 point median the Tigers sit at for the season. Memphis has been able to put up some big numbers, but ECU has shown it has grown in that aspect.

### Max Lukas

News and sports reporter with WZMB



**ECU vs Memphis on 11/13**

**Score Prediction?**

35-31 ECU wins

**Why?** I would really like to see ECU go

down to Memphis and beat a team that is kind of a toss up. Especially since I think it's going to be a close game. I think the Pirate defense is playing way too good for Memphis to score 35 points on it.



Freshman running back Keaton Mitchell sheds off a defender from Temple University on a long run toward the endzone on Nov. 6.

## ECU will challenge Memphis

### Football heads to Tennessee after back-to-back wins at home

Markayla McInnis  
TEC STAFF

With three more regular-season games left, East Carolina football (5-4-0, 3-2-0 American Athletic Conference) will travel to the University of Memphis (5-4-0, 2-3-0 AAC) on Saturday for a noon kickoff.

The Pirates will come into this game after a big win over Temple University (3-6-0, 1-4-0 AAC) on Nov. 6 where ECU was able to top them 45-3.



Mike Houston

badly Temple beat them in their freshman and sophomore years, I think just embarrassing performances. To see our group of older kids to go out there and

play that way against that program at home, that's just a really impressive performance by those kids."

In the AAC, the Tigers sit one place behind the Pirates at No. 6 in the conference. In the series history between the two schools, ECU has the upper hand with 15 wins against Memphis and eight losses. In the last matchup between the two teams, the Tigers topped the Pirates 59-41 on Nov. 3, 2018.

As the Tigers topped the Mustangs in the Nov. 6 win, they ended the game with 472 yards with 432 of them coming from passes. Freshman quarterback Seth Henigan threw for 392 yards and two touchdowns and junior running back quarterback Rodrigues Clark was able to get in some passing yards as well as he threw a touchdown.

With the win versus SMU, both redshirt sophomore Javon Ivory and fifth year tight end Sean Dykes got one touchdown apiece. Ivory

ended with 67 yards, Dykes ended with 64 and redshirt senior wide receiver Calvin Austin III led in receiving yards with 88.

Both teams will come into the game striving for a sixth win on Saturday in Memphis, Tennessee. The game will be shown on ESPN+ and broadcast on 107.9 WNCT-FM as well.

"We knew going into the year that getting six was our goal, and that still is our goal," junior quarterback Holton Ahlers said. "The sixth one is probably going to be the toughest one. We've got three games left; we've just got to get one. We think we can win all those games. We've just got to take it one week at a time."

The Pirates will continue on the road in their next game as they travel to Annapolis, Maryland, to face the Naval Academy (2-7-0, 2-4-0, AAC) Nov. 20 at 3:30 p.m.

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

### PIRATES continued from A1

The Pirates made a total of 32 kills, 42 points and 30 assists while UCF made a total of 53 kills, 69 points and six points.

Right side senior Bri Wood managed to make 13 kills and two aces for the Pirates. Wood also hit a .333 and senior outside hitter Natalie Tyson made 10 kills and two aces. Right-side freshman Sophia Kruczko made three kills and sophomore outside hitter Sania Mccoy made two kills.

After the UCF loss, the Pirates will head into its next conference game at 2 p.m. in Houston, Texas, on Friday. From 2004, the ECU Pirates have a history of nine wins and 14 losses against the Houston Cougars. The two teams last saw each other earlier this season on Oct. 24 in Greenville, North Carolina, which resulted in a win for the Pirates. ECU won against Houston 3-2 with a total of 72.5 points.



Bri Wood

The Houston Cougars finished with 84 points and hit a .153 while ECU hit a .224. Senior outside hitter Sydney Kleinman made 19 kills with two aces and five blocks while Tyson finished the game with 13 kills and two blocks. Freshman defensive specialist/libero Tia Shum made 16 digs and Mccoy came in with five kills and four blocks. In the five-set game, both teams bounced back and forth for the lead but ultimately the Pirates came out on top.

Houston most recently played and won against the University of Tulsa (12-11, 7-7 AAC) on Nov. 7 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. When ECU took on Tulsa the Pirates lost 1-3 on Oct. 17. According to UHcougars, Tulsa marked win No. 21 this season for the Cougars the team is also on a four-game winning streak.

The Cougars are currently ranked number two in the conference just behind UCF, while ECU is ranked ninth. As East Carolina continues on in the conference season the Friday against Houston will be broadcasted through ESPN+ for fans to watch.

After the Pirates face Houston, they will play Tulane at 1 p.m. in New Orleans, Louisiana. From 2004, ECU volleyball has a total of 17 losses and six wins against the Greenwave. The two teams last saw each other in Greenville on Oct. 22 where the Pirates lost 2-3. Although ECU came close to a win, Tulane was ultimately able to come out on top with a total of 73 kills and a hitting average of .329.

Tulane most recently played against Wichita State University (15-8,9-5 AAC) in Wichita, Kansas, on Nov. 7 and lost 0-3. The Greenwave hit an average of .243 made a total of 42 kills, 49 points 36 assists and six blocks. The final score of each set came to be 25-22, 25-23 and 26-24.

After a weekend on the road, the Pirates will return back to Greenville to continue on in the conference season. The team will face the University of Tulsa on Nov. 19 and the game will begin at 6 p.m. on Paint It Black night for East Carolina.

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

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