

The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Monday, 01.09.23

ECU offers opportunities for students

Kim Kassner
TEC STAFF

As the 2023 spring semester commences, different organizations at East Carolina University encourage students to explore various engagement opportunities on campus.

Director of ECU Career Services Thomas Halasz said there will be a variety of services and events provided for students from the university to participate in. As far as it goes for the career service office, he said, there will be five job and career fairs held throughout the spring semester.

"We encourage our students to study abroad, experience volunteering, service, learning, or even research with faculty," Halasz said. "The remaining area we like to focus on are students who are looking for career ideas, employment or internships. Through job and career fairs, we provide preparation, information and experience."

Halasz said Career Services separates job and career fairs by their purpose. The job fair, he said, is where students can discover potential jobs or internship positions, whereas the career fair can be used to learn about various professions and disciplines.

Students can engage with multiple organizations and employers through these fairs, Halasz said, allowing them to develop ideas for their future.

"Last spring, we had around 250 organizations visiting us and recruiting students," Halasz said. "That's pretty great. Students can practice their soft skills, exchange their ideas and maybe even land an interview and job afterwards."

Volunteer opportunities within Career Services are available too, Halasz said. He said students can help out during the job and career fairs, as well as other events hosted by the office.

Coordinator of Well-Being Gwen Krause said other ways to engage on campus during the upcoming semester is through Campus Recreation & Wellness. Krause said there will be programs available weekly, serving overall student mental and physical health.

"For example, each Thursday, there will be something called Therapeutic Thursday," Krause said. "We'll encourage students at the Well-being Hub to participate in activities that will help relieve some stress and promote their personal growth. Then on Fridays we will be holding our Fresh Food Friday events. A way to engage students in eating healthy foods such as vegetables, nuts and fruits."

Krause said the different activities and other resources offered by Well-Being at ECU throughout the spring

> ECU page A2



Freshmen nursing major Megan Giancola and elementary education major Ally Grooms show their ECU pride to start the semester.

Officials welcome spring semester

Julia Lawson
TEC STAFF

Following winter break, East Carolina University's students, faculty and staff return to campus today to embark on a new semester of classes.

Chancellor Philip Rogers wrote a statement to welcome students back to campus following the winter break.

Rogers wrote it was a joy to celebrate the graduation of nearly 2,000 students in December, and he hopes all students enjoyed their break.

"Now it's time to get back to work and back to class, and I'm thrilled to return to campus along with our students, faculty and staff," Rogers wrote. "Welcome back, and Go Pirates!"

ECU offers a wide variety of opportunities for students, Rogers wrote, and students should take advantage of these opportunities and broaden their horizons, explore new interests and find their strengths.

Ryan Bonnett, president of the Student Government Association (SGA), said he was proud of the

accomplishments made by SGA last semester and said he has plans to generate positive change for ECU throughout the 2023 spring semester.

"I'm excited for the new semester, hopefully everyone had a great break, and is ready to hit the ground running when we come back," Bonnett said.

As students old and new come to campus, Bonnett said he would like for them to know the university offers a variety of services to assist students academically, physically and mentally.

Bonnet said this semester SGA will be hosting several town halls to give students an opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions.

"Something I've been working on for this past semester is a program we're doing in partnership with the food pantry, the Purple Pantry, and working to implement the donation of meal swipes towards the food pantry," Bonnett said.

Associate Vice Chancellor of the Dean of Students Lynn Roeder said students should take advantage of the resources offered by ECU as the Spring 2023 semester commences.

Some of these programs include the HOiST (Helping Our Students Thrive) program and ECU CARES,

Roeder said, each part of an effort to assist students, faculty and staff throughout their time spent here at the university.

"We (the dean's office) do smaller things for, not just for students, but for faculty and that, y'know trying to help faculty recognize students in distress, things like that," Roeder said.

Director of Student Engagement John Mountz said his department has many plans for this upcoming semester to encourage students to get involved on campus.

"Student engagement is a large unit that oversees quite a number of, what I call, student life opportunities, so our unit oversees the student activities board," Mountz said. "All of our registered student organizations, our Fraternity and Sorority Life program, homecoming, welcome week, all of those things come out of our office throughout the year."

Mountz said students becoming involved in on-campus organizations and activities is essential to their success in college as well as an important way for students to pave their own path and find a sense of belonging.

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

Mid-season analysis for Pirates men's basketball

Kiarra Crayton
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's basketball team (10-7, 1-3 American Athletic Conference) is on track to finish this season with a better record than its previous 2021-2022 season in which its record was 15-15, 6-11 AAC.

This is ECU's first season with Head Coach Michael Schwartz, who previously led the University of Tennessee as an associate head coach to the best-scoring defense in the Southeastern Conference during the 2018, 2021, and 2022 seasons, according to ECU Pirates. All three assistant coaches are new to the ECU program as well.

As a team that just installed new coaches and has a young roster, the team has been coming together quicker than most. The team went 11-4 in the 2021-2022 season for non-conference games and during this season they had the same amount of losses in their non-conference games.

The turning point for ECU will be if they remain solid and pull through with the win in the games that have been close this season so far. Last Wednesday, the Pirates lost to the University of Central Florida (UCF) (11-4, 2-1 AAC) by three points.

Since the 2019-2020 season, the Pirates have lost to the Knights at least once by three or four points. In the other meetings between

the teams during the 2019-2022 in which they lost by three to four points, East Carolina still lost by seven points or more. If ECU can pull through with a win against UCF in the second meeting of this season on March 5, then it will



Javon Small

show the Pirates can win in a close game situation. The Pirates are 3-3 in games with under a 10 point margin in the season this far. If the Pirates could produce more points and have a winning record in games within 10 points, then it would help the team clutch a winning record. As East Carolina has a .675 percentage in free throws in the season, this could be improved to help the team win the closer games.

The latest game of the season against the University of Memphis (12-4, 2-1 AAC) on Jan. 7 was the Pirates' six straight lead at halftime. Of the six games three of them are losses. In all the losses ECU was out-scored but still put up more than thirty points except in the second half against Memphis.

The first half the score was 33-25, but the second half points were 44-26 Memphis. ECU lost the lead five minutes into the second and Memphis was relentless and scored 15 consecutive points. East Carolina had a couple of

scoreless periods during the second half that kept the team from pulling ahead.

ECU sophomore forward Brandon Johnson led the team with 15 points and currently leads the American in double doubles. His high of the season was 24 on Nov. 8, 2022 and averages 13 points per game (PPG), which is triple his average at the end of the 2021-2022 season.

The leading scorer for the Pirates this season is sophomore guard Javon Small as he averages 15 PPG. In the loss against UCF last Wednesday, Small only locked in five points and did not score until there was five minutes left in the second half. The game against the Knights was his lowest-scoring game of the season, as in the second lowest he scored nine points which occurred twice this season.

Johnson has led the team in scoring for the past five games and Small only had double digits in three of the five games. Johnson averages nine rebounds a game and leads the team with 145 in the season.

The Pirates next game will be against the University of Cincinnati (11-5, 2-1 AAC) on Wednesday at 9 p.m. who average 79 ppg compared to the Pirates' 70 ppg. Last season, ECU lost all three meetings but the highest score margin of the three games was 11 points. However, the ppg for both teams last season were lower and closer to each other.

ECU needs to make their free throws and

keep turnovers to a minimum in order to be close enough to pull a win against the Cincinnati Bearcats.

A win in both games against the University of South Florida (7-8, 0-2 AAC), Wichita State University (7-8, 0-3 AAC) and the University of Tulsa (4-10, 0-3 AAC) will be needed if the Pirates want to have a fighting chance in the conference. These are the teams who currently stand below ECU in the AAC.

A win against Southern Methodist University (6-9, 1-1 AAC) is possible because of the rough season the Mustangs are enduring. A win against UCF and Temple University (9-8, 3-1 AAC) could be pulled off if East Carolina remains solid through both halves. As in the two point loss against Temple on Dec. 28, 2022, the Pirates were simply outscored in the second half by three points.

East Carolina has a chance to have a winning record for the first time since the 2012-2013 season. There were two seasons in between in which the Pirates split the season and had a .500 percentage which were the 2013-2014 season and the 2021-2022 season.

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

ONLINE

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» POLL: Are you going to attend the January exhibit in Emerge?

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

Meeting to be held by City Council today

Today, the Greenville City Council will hold its first meeting of the New Year from 6 to 8 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Information regarding the meeting can be viewed on the Greenville North Carolina website.

Study abroad to host informational tomorrow

Tomorrow, ECU Study Abroad will host an information session from 4 to 8 p.m. The information session will take place in the International House located on East 9th Street.

SGA to hold student assembly

Wednesday, the Student Government Association will hold the first Student Assembly of the semester. The meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in Ballroom C of the Main Campus Student Center.

Application to be due Sunday for Scholarships

Sunday, most university scholarships for the 2023 spring semester are due. Students can apply through the ECU Award scholarship application portal.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Emily Peek at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's Student Government Association plans to help increase campus safety and continue to help students among other goals in 2023.

SGA announces spring 2023 agenda

Eli Baine
TEC STAFF

The Student Government Association (SGA) at East Carolina University is working to make changes on campus for the spring 2023 semester through efforts to aid disadvantaged students, increase campus safety and advance ECU's sustainability mission.

SGA President Ryan Bonnett said the association will be launching the Swipe Out Hunger program at ECU this semester. The program will allow students to donate excess meal swipes to a local food pantry for students, the Purple Pantry.

"We're gonna be doing some tabling outside the dining halls and have some signs up all over campus so students can donate, and when students visit the food pantry, they'll know where to sign up and receive up to five meal swipes for on-campus locations," Bonnett said.

Chief of Staff of the SGA President and Director of University Affairs Javier Limon said he will help launch the Swipe Out Hunger program this upcoming semester, as well.

Some students are not able to get to the dining halls and eat during operating hours due to religious practices like Ramadan, Limon said. He said any student can reach out to their SGA representatives and help make changes to the university and create a more safe, accessible and equitable environment.

"Something I personally care about is making sure of equitable outcomes for students, especially right now where students are facing a lot of rising costs," Limon said.

Limon also wants to change certain degree programs requiring internships that do not compensate students, he said. Being a student is already a full time job, Limon said, and some stu-

dents cannot afford the extra work without pay.

SGA Speaker Tyler West wrote in an email statement that he will be aiding in ECU's sustainability mission this semester.

"I will be working with ECU Campus Operations to write legislation in support of increased focus on Sustainability in ECU's next five-year strategic plan," West wrote.

The university's previous 2019-2023 sustainability plan made additions such as solar panels and new recycling options to both ECU, according to the East Carolina University Sustainability Program website.



Tyler West

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

ECU continued from A1

semester can be found on the Well-Being website.

The Well-Being Hubs are intended to motivate students, Krause said, as well as to take advantage of opportunities to develop a healthy relationship with their bodies and minds.

"Knowing resources at ECU can be so important," Krause said. "Knowing where to go, who to talk to or reach out to can make a big difference. All these opportunities to engage on campus allow you to support yourself and eventually others."

Javier Limon, a junior majoring in political science, said he enjoys being involved on campus. For example, Limon said he is the Student Government Association's director of universities affairs and chief of staff, as well as the Vice President of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and also a member of the Chancellor's Student Leadership Academy.

"Engaging on campus is as beneficial to the community as it is for students," Limon said. "I think when it comes to being involved on campus, you can get a lot out of it as a student, including

leadership opportunities. You put yourself in situations that you might not have expected, but you come out stronger and a more well-rounded student because of it."

To stay up-to-date with the different events and organizations on campus, Limon said, he recommends using ECU's student engagement website. He said the website helped him at the beginning of his studies to find his "niche."

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

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OUR VIEW

Pirates should finish strong this semester

As Pirates return to East Carolina University's campus for the spring 2023 semester, students should take into account their academic, mental and physical needs as they finish the 2022-23 academic year strong.

Throughout the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous effect on student mental health, academic performance and social life. Students, faculty and staff all continue to overcome these obstacles as each semester passes by.

As the university continues its return to normalcy, we, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe it's important that our fellow Pirates take these factors into account as they tackle these last few months of the academic year.

Numerous resources are available for the university community on campus, and the opportunity to interact with one another face-to-face in the classroom, at sporting events and in Uptown Greenville is more apparent than ever. The spring 2023 semester provides us with the chance to grow alongside each other in person once again.

This second half of the academic calendar is sure to fly by, as many of them do. Student success is always a priority for the campus community, whether that be for university administration, faculty, staff or students themselves. This success can only be achieved when we take care of ourselves and one another.

While a new year begins and Pirates continue on their academic and professional journeys, we hope that our fellow ECU community members will continue to lend a helping hand and strive to make this the university's best semester in the post-pandemic world.



CONTRIBUTED BY JESSICA JONES

Breanna Sapp is the new copy and opinion editor for The East Carolinian, and has held multiple positions throughout Pirate Media 1.

Welcome from new opinion editor



Breanna Sapp
TEC COLUMNIST

Happy first day of classes and welcome back, fellow Pirates! I hope each of you took the opportunity to rest and recharge throughout the holidays, using that well-needed time to take care of your mental health, as well as your physical health.

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new copy and opinion editor of The East Carolinian. I look forward to this position and the unique opportunity it gives me to read through the campus community's reflections on life as a Pirate.

I began my time here at The East Carolinian as a freshman in fall of 2020. That semester I worked as a candidate in the news section, where I found a passion for journalistic integrity and the importance of the free press.

Since then, I have worked as a reporter, chief editor and section editors for both the news and arts & entertainment sections, finding myself more committed to the

Pirate community every day. Within the news section, my main objective was to ensure that the campus was well-informed of the community around them, as well as to remain transparent with students, faculty and staff.

As the new copy and opinion editor, I have a new array of duties that are just as equally important – I have the pleasure to directly hear from our readers themselves.

The opinion section is open to anyone within the Greenville, North Carolina, community that wishes to see their own submission in a written publication. Whether that's through a column, Pirate Rant or Letter to the Editor, readers have the chance to voice any opinions or concerns on the world around them.

As we enter the spring 2023 semester, I hope all our readers and peers take advantage of each and every second on campus. After a two-year-long pandemic that posed an indescribable uncertainty for each of us, there's so much to be done that we longed for terribly before.

Basketball and baseball games provide

the opportunity for us to connect with one another face-to-face once again, as well as in-person events like Barefoot on the Mall, Doggie Jams and Concert on the Common.

I'd also like to encourage all students, faculty and staff to take care of one another throughout this spring semester. Though the future is bright for the Pirate and Greenville community, it's also important to remember that this may not be the case for everyone.

Resources available such as the Pirate Academic Success Center, the Center for Counseling and Student Development, and Campus Recreation and Wellness are just a few examples of the opportunities we as Pirates have in order to best manage our academic, mental and physical needs.

As we approach a new semester and begin a year full of new journeys, I hope each of you are full of hopefulness for what is yet to come. Welcome back, Pirates.

Sapp is a junior majoring in English and a TEC columnist. To contact them, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

PIRATE RANTS

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

The zoning ordinances around campus need to be changed. We need to open up the area to all types of industry. It would meet the needs of students faster than the university could and not allow for the city to dictate so much.

One of my New Years resolutions was to start fact checking the "informative" Instagram posts that I consume. Of the past 10 that I have fact checked, 5 have been offensively incorrect. In 2023, let's stop passing off our opinions as fact. Thank you.

New Year new Pirates right? Let's use this new year and new semester to act like we have some sense around campus.

Not ready for the traffic that's about to hit Greenville with everybody back in the city. PLEASE LEARN HOW TO DRIVE WHEN YOU COME BACK!

I'm hoping that they get the parking deck situation situated for the spring semester. I'm tired of having to jump through hoops to park and leave.

Literally what is the point of having a million dollar student center and never having food options open! Even when students are not on campus, us student workers would like to eat too!

So you're telling me I have to PAY to park everywhere downtown now?!

For the price students pay (especially out of state students) for a meal plan, it's time the dining hall changes up their options and stops being lazy!

Questions regarding Pirate Rants can be directed to Breanna Sapp at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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



Letters to the editor | Provost Coger welcomes students

Dear Pirate Nation:

Welcome back to your home away from home. Thank you for the role you all played in enabling my first semester as provost at East Carolina University to be filled with discovery of the wonderful programs, research and people of this University and learning about the ingenuity and expertise of our community. ECU is beginning 2023 with a foundation of accomplishments to build upon for a successful second half to our academic year.

Last fall the site for the new medical education building was approved, a partnership with local content creator and YouTube star MrBeast was announced, and the university had an all-time high of \$82.1 million in funded research projects. We also ended the year with an ECU Football win at the Birmingham Bowl – Go Pirates!

In December, I had the honor of participating in my first East Carolina University commencement ceremony where together we celebrated the

“ I encourage all of you to become engaged, as you make the difference in ECU fulfilling our potential. ”

- Robin N. Coger

successes of almost 2,000 ECU graduates. I look forward to recognizing the spring graduating class in May. We are approaching this spring semester with much to look forward to and I am very excited by the possibilities before us.

I admire the focus of our university on being a national model for our students succeeding, serving the public and transforming the region. I encourage all of you to become engaged, as you make the difference in ECU fulfilling our potential. Look for what drives you and gives you a sense of purpose, and leverage that to make a difference. There are so many opportunities available inside and outside the classroom to grow

your perspective of the world and to simultaneously inform others. I ask for you to take time this semester to consider exploring study abroad, research and internship opportunities. Perhaps participate in an organization that reflects your interests. Most importantly, take time to learn new things this semester while also taking care of yourself physically and mentally.

Have a great semester everyone, and a successful and productive 2023.

Robin N. Coger, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

OUR STAFF

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As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 500 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Follow your heart.

Do things you love doing. Sadness, difficulty and strife abound. Pamper yourself with relaxation, fun and creative projects. Enjoy your dear ones.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 9 — Carve extra time for yourself. Indulge your favorite inexpensive rituals and practices. Luxuriate in hot water. Wash stress away. Nurture yourself and better support others.

time for yourself. Indulge your favorite inexpensive rituals and practices. Luxuriate in hot water. Wash stress away. Nurture yourself and better support others.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is an 8 — An unexpected development invites new possibilities. Patiently navigate obstacles for wider travels and explorations. Or study and investigate from home, for greater ease.

unexpected development invites new possibilities. Patiently navigate obstacles for wider travels and explorations. Or study and investigate from home, for greater ease.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is an 8 — Settle

into your cozy nest. Despite breakdowns or messes, home comforts warm your spirit. Clean, sort and organize. Give away extra stuff. Clear space.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — Savor a

peaceful hideaway to process transitions. Avoid noise, crowds or controversy. Lay low to contemplate plans, potential and possibilities. Review options. Choose upon reflection.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Collaborate

to maintain positive cash flow despite unforeseen expenses. Old formulas may not work in the current situation. An open mind helps. Try something new.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is an 8 — Study the situation. Expect the unexpected. Communications could seem distorted, confused or blocked. Draw upon hidden resources. Connect and take action for love.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Don't get stuck or stopped by an awkward social moment. Fortune follows action today. Clean a mess. Advance common goals with teamwork and collaboration.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Patience

helps you avoid argument or conflict. Sparks fly with light provocation. End a negative spin cycle by refusing to engage. Listen generously.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Monitor budgets carefully. A disruption could get expensive. Cut frivolous expenses. Don't offer to pay for everything. The best things in life are free.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — Professional

attention rises. Update websites and promotional materials. Your past work speaks well for you. Show it off nicely. Adjust focus toward desired projects.

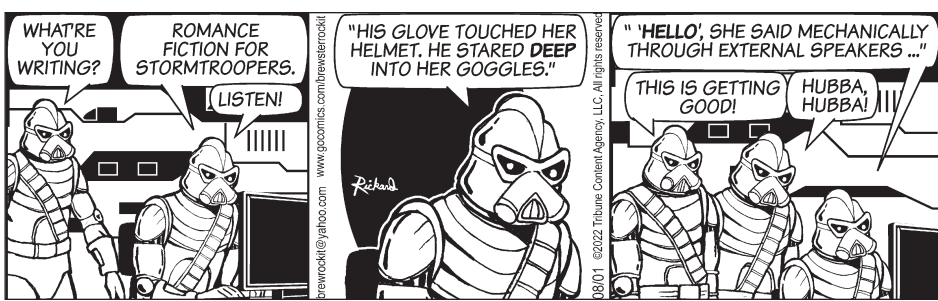
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Continue to

build physical strength and stamina, despite challenges with health or work. Pretend optimism still works. Fake it til you make it.

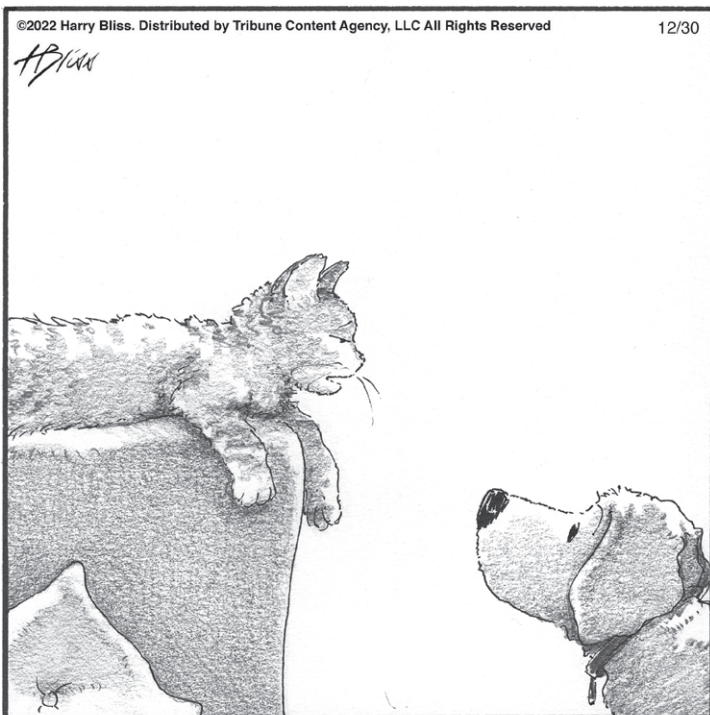
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BREWSTER ROCKIT



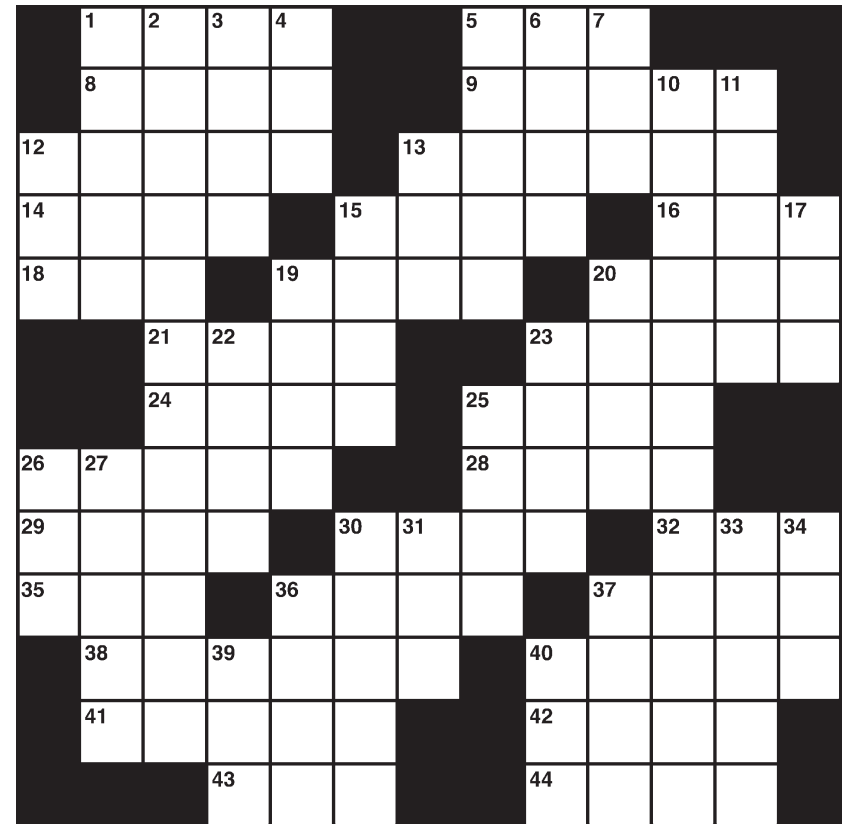
BLISS



CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

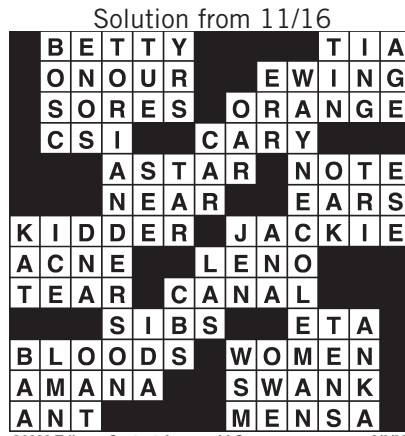
ACROSS

- 1 "___ Trek: Voyager"
- 5 "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 8 "The Oh in ___"; Parker Posey movie
- 9 "___ of Endearment"; MacLaine/Winger film
- 12 Hot-tempered
- 13 "I've Got a ___"
- 14 Bullring shouts
- 15 Mountaintop
- 16 "___ & Order"
- 18 Letters after a lawyer's name
- 19 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
- 20 Italy's dollar before the euro
- 21 Mayim Bialik's alma mater
- 23 Peregrym of "FBI"
- 24 Ladd or Rickman
- 25 Yellow, Black, Red & Dead
- 26 Drag one's feet
- 28 Tibetan monk
- 29 One of John-Boy's sisters
- 30 "___ Team"
- 32 Tumor suffix
- 35 ___ Lemon; role on "30 Rock"

- 36 Quarrel
- 37 Namesakes of actress Ortiz
- 38 "Medical ___" (1969-76)
- 40 "Carmen" or "Tosca"
- 41 Main character in "The Little Mermaid"
- 42 Hammer's target
- 43 Hole-making tool
- 44 Woody Guthrie's boy

DOWN

- 1 Sullies
- 2 Series for Queen Latifah
- 3 Broadcasts
- 4 Rogers or Clark
- 5 "The ___"; George Peppard series
- 6 "___ the Halls"; 2006 Danny DeVito film
- 7 Hockey's Bobby
- 10 Actress on "The Rookie"
- 11 "Dancing with the ___"
- 12 Hatfield, to McCoy
- 13 "We're off to ___ the Wizard..."
- 15 "Man with a ___"
- 17 "Every Which ___ But Loose"
- 19 Potter's material
- 20 Actor Neeson
- 22 Extended family group
- 23 Lunch or dinner
- 25 Venetian blinds piece
- 26 Dover's state: abbr.
- 27 Durance of "Smallville"
- 30 Participate in a bee
- 31 Word attached to wig or wax
- 33 Danny Thomas' daughter
- 34 "Life ___ House"; Kevin Kline film
- 36 Goulash
- 37 On ___ with; equivalent to
- 39 Actress Peeples
- 40 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"



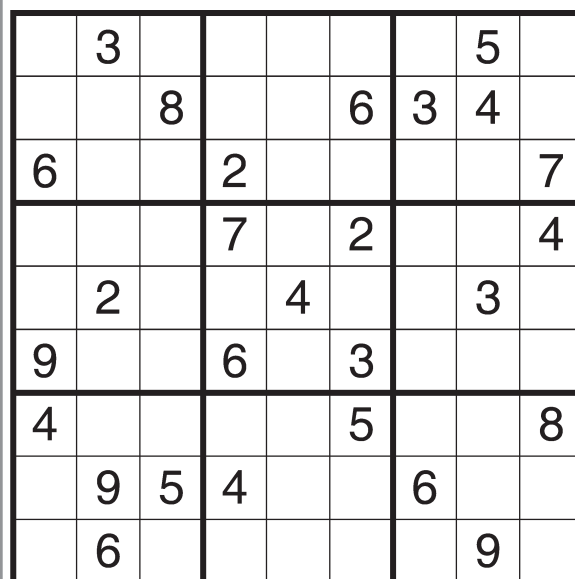
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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level
1 2
3 4



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

Solution from 7/27

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

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TEC 'spertZ

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's events

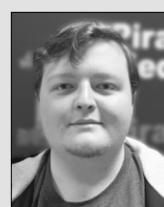
Brendan Cavazos
Sports Editor



ECU Basketball vs Cincinnati on Wednesday
Score Prediction?
Cincinnati 82-71

Why? The Pirates will be up against an 11-5 Cincinnati who are only one win away from significantly jumping in the standings. The Pirates will need to score a lot of points to keep up with their opponent.

Chris Long
Sports Chief



ECU Basketball vs Cincinnati on Wednesday
Score Prediction?
Cincinnati 78-66

Why? The biggest point of emphasis between these two teams is point differential. Statistically, Cincinnati should be favored in every category, leading to loss for the Pirates.



Head Coach Cliff Godwin and junior outfielder Ryley Johnson discuss their game strategy on the third baseline before Johnson goes to bat.

Baseball marked as AAC 2023 favorite

Nick Bailey
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University (0-0, 0-0 American Athletic Conference) baseball team was ranked at the top of 2023 Preseason Coaches poll, released by the AAC on Dec. 28, 2022, following the 2021 season where the Pirates finished first in both regular and conference season.

ECU went 46-21 overall last season, the third time the Pirates have won 45 or more games in a season since 2009, with the last time being in 2019. The Pirates led the AAC with the best record in conference play a season ago going 20-4, with University of Central Florida (UCF) (0-0, 0-0 AAC) trailing behind with a record of 14-10 in conference matchups.

The three-time defending AAC regular season champion Pirates have been picked first in the preseason poll five-straight times and six overall since joining the league.

ECU received 49 points and seven first-place votes while University of Houston (0-0, 0-0 AAC) was second with 39 points and UCF third with 38. The University of South Florida

(0-0, 0-0 AAC) was awarded the only other first-place vote.

Some Pirate players got preseason honors along with them being crowned at the top of the AAC preseason coaches poll. Senior pitcher Carter Spivey is the reigning AAC Pitcher Of The Year and now he takes the mantle of being named the preseason pitcher of the year for the conference. He earned this title as a unanimous selection.

Spivey joins familiar company alongside his fellow Pirate teammates with the title. Senior pitcher Jake Kuchmaner earned this title for the 2020 season, and sophomore pitcher Carson Whisenhunt was voted for this honor last season.

With an undefeated record on the mound last year, going 8-0, Spivey earned a run average of 2.83 along with striking out 76 batters, both career highs. He also walked 19 batters and had 5 saves on the season in 76.1 innings of work. He ranked eighth nationally in appearances (35), 47th in victories and 54th in ERA.

Spivey received several honors for his performance in the 2022 season, including selection to the Collegiate Baseball All-America Third Team, American Baseball Coaches Association All-Atlantic Region Team, All-AAC First Team and NCAA Greenville All-Regional Team. He was also named a finalist for the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year Award.

In the preseason all-conference team, Spivey and sophomore outfielder Jacob Jenkins-Cowart both were selected unanimously onto the team.

The 6'6 sophomore outfielder out of Greensboro had a breakout season in his freshman campaign with ECU. Jenkins-Cowart had a .330 batting average with 233 plate appearances, bringing in 77 hits and 44 runs. He led the team in RBI's with 65 and stole 6 bags with a .549 slugging percentage.

He also ranked in the top five all-time for ECU freshmen in single-season games played, at bats, runs scored, hits, batting average, RBI, home runs, total bases (128) and stolen bases.

Jenkins-Cowart racked up some accolades in his freshman season, named to the 2022 Freshman All-America Team, 2022 NCAA Greenville All-Regional Team, 2022 AAC Championship Most Outstanding Player and honored to the 2022 American Athletic Conference Championship All-Tournament Team

ECU alumnus and current head coach Cliff Godwin in his upcoming 9th season on the staff will be looking to lead his team to the College World Series (CWS) Super Regionals for the third year in a row, and hopefully beyond that to the CWS.

Godwin will focus on getting the Pirates back to the top of the mountain of the AAC in addition to a fourth conference win within the past five years.

The Pirates' long season ahead will begin in the spring when they face off against George Washington University (0-0, 0-0 Atlantic 10 Conference) in a triple header in Greenville, North Carolina, at Clark-LeClair stadium on Feb. 17th at 4 p.m.

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

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and Thursday, Jan. 19
9 a.m. to noon
OR
2-4 p.m.

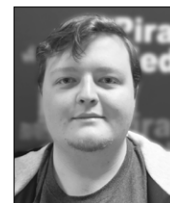
Friday, Jan. 20
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Students must have a 2.25 GPA or higher to apply; freshmen may apply.

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» ANALYSIS

Football wraps up season



Chris Long
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University football (8-5, 4-4 American Athletic Conference) has completed the 2022 season with a 53-29 win in the Birmingham Bowl against Coastal Carolina University (9-4, 6-2 Sun Belt Conference) and with that,

the Pirates face an uncertain, yet guided and bright future.

The Birmingham Bowl victory was the first bowl game win for ECU in nearly a decade and the first under Head Coach Mike Houston's tenure. The fourth-year head coach has rebirthed the program into prominence from a perennial bottom three team in the AAC from 2016-2020 into a threatening contender in the biggest powerhouse conference of the group of five conferences. Coach Houston has been fundamental to the success of the Pirates over the past two seasons.

Along with Coach Houston, some big names have placed ECU football back on the map. Names that, come April 27, we could be hearing from the podium at the 2023 National Football League (NFL) draft. Names that set records and created highlights that will be remembered both from Pirate nation and at a national level for years to come.

The first of those names is Holton Ahlers. The fifth-year quarterback has been the rock upon which Coach Houston has built his offense since he began at ECU. Ahlers has amassed many accolades during his time as the East Carolina signal caller, including the all-time leader in passing yards, total yards, completions and total plays in the American Athletic Conference as well as the all-time leader in passing yards, touchdowns and total offense in school history.

Year by year, Ahlers has improved his impact both on the field and in the box score. Statistically, the quarterback has gotten better and better, taking only a slight dip in quar-

terback rating (QBR) in 2021 before jumping nearly 20 points higher to end his collegiate career. Along with the jump in QBR, Ahlers has posted career highs in the 2022 season in yardage, touchdowns, yards per completion, completions and completion percentage.

On the other side of the ball, the Pirates played clean, hardnose ball. ECU finished tied for fifth in fewest penalties with 56 for 488 yards in 13 games played. The group also finished in the top 35 in red zone defense, falling behind from what was once the No. 2 ranked red zone defense in the nation.

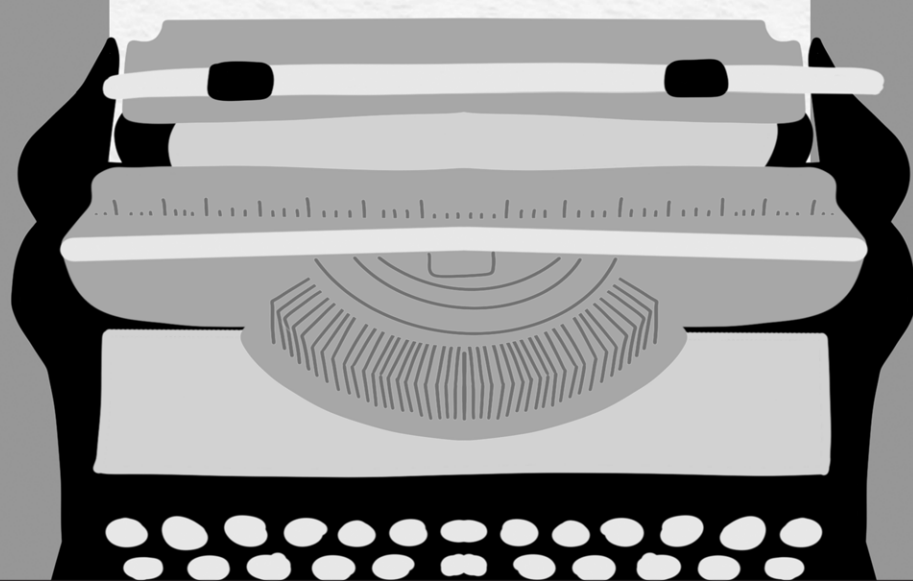
The mantra for this Pirate defense has been "bend don't break" as the team has created a turnover differential that places fourth best in the nation with a safety, nine forced fumbles, seven fumble recoveries, 11 interceptions, 40 pass break ups, 25 quarterback hits and 904 total tackles.

This defense was led by program staples, such as junior linebacker Jeremy Lewis, senior safety Gerard Stringer, senior linebacker Myles Berry, junior safety Julius Wood, junior safety Jireh Wilson, junior cornerback Malik Fleming, sophomore safety Teagan Wilk and graduate student defensive lineman Shaundre Mims.

Where the Pirates fell short this season is special teams. ECU was two missed field goals away from being a 10 win during the 2022 season. Week one against North Carolina State University (8-5, 4-4 Atlantic Coastal Conference), sophomore placekicker Owen Daffer missed both the game tying extra point kick and the game winning field goal that launched the season off at 0-1.

The Pirates' recent success is not a fluke. It is the result of a head coach with a vision, players who have bought into that vision and the execution to pull it all together. This is not the end for the Pirates, though they are losing many pieces. This is only the beginning.

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



EVENTS

TODAY

Super Family Game Day
Greenville Museum of Art
802 S Evans St.
1 to 4 p.m.
(252) 758-1946

GMoArcade
Greenville Museum of Art
802 S Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
(252) 758-1946

TOMORROW

Game Night & World Tavern Poker
5th Street Hardware
120 W 5th St.
7 to 11 p.m.
(252) 364-8921

Intramural Basketball Registration
Eakin Student Recreation Center
1000 E 5th St.
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(252) 328-1565

HCS Group Fitness Cycling
Health Sciences Student Center
1868 Health Science Dr.
5 to 5:45 p.m.
(252) 328-4947

WEDNESDAY

Intramural Soccer Registration
Eakin Student Recreation Center
1000 E 5th St.
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(252) 328-1565

THURSDAY

January Exhibition Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 S. Evans St.
10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(252)551-6947

Therapeutic Thursday-Vision Boards
Main Campus Well-Being Hub
1000 E 5th St.
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
(252) 328-5770

FRIDAY

African American Music Series
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
404 S. Evans St.
7 to 9 p.m.
(252)551-6947

ECU Material Topics Symposium
ECU School of Art and Design
Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Center
Rm 2000
7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(252) 328-6665



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

In addition to the visual art gallery set ups, lectures and demos will take place in the Emerge Gallery and Art Center through the month of January.

New Exhibition at Emerge Gallery

Candaisha Johnson
TEC STAFF

Emerge Gallery and Art Center will continue hosting its month-long January Exhibition 'Grounded & Shared Pasts, Divergent Futures' until Jan. 26, partnering with East Carolina University alumna and faculty member Noelle Gunn and the ECU Materials Topic Symposium.

Sarah Lazure, marketing coordinator at Emerge, said the January exhibition, 'Grounded & Shared Pasts, Divergent Futures,' will be featured in the Don Edwards Gallery, in conjunction with the symposium. ECU alumna Liz Steiner curated the symposium hosted at Emerge, Lazure said, though there are still three to four other exhibits within the School of Art and Design (SoAD) specifically for the ECU symposium.

The symposium has been an ongoing production since 2009, according to the ECU symposium website, and the 'Forging Ahead 2023' class is organized by metal design graduates Emily Booker, Nicholas Hesson and Anthony Naimo. "For ten years, minus the last two (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) the metals department within the School of Art and Design at ECU has hosted a three-day symposium where makers, jewelers, craftspeople come together. There's lectures, demos, but there's also, you know, gallery set-ups," Lazure said.

For the symposium exhibition, Lazure said there are 40 artists across the country that par-

ticipated and created 45 art pieces in total.

Due to ECU not being open to the students, Lazure said the galleries couldn't participate in the First Friday ArtWalk last Friday though they'll be open for the ECU symposium from Friday to Sunday.

Lazure said the Harvey Wooten Gallery features the other part of the January exhibition, 'Grounded; Miracles and Memories' by Noelle Gunn. Though this gallery isn't as strongly adjacent to the sales gallery area, she said it's still the same space where Emerge hosts their music series and larger events.

"With Noelle, it's one artist and it's an installation, so there's probably, you know, over a hundred pieces but all of them make up the singular experience that you'd see, you know, when you visited the space," Lazure said.

Anthony Naimo, metal design graduate and co-chair of the symposium, said since returning this year after COVID-19, the symposium reached out to Emerge about a collaboration.

Naimo said Emerge originally contacted Liz Steiner, who invited ECU alumni. The alumni then invited their professors and mentors, Naimo said. He said that the presence of three generations of artists proved that it was a legacy event.

Looking back on the last three years, Naimo said, because of COVID-19 the artists were forced to adopt new art practices and lost workspaces. He said artists had to experiment with new mate-

rials and think about how to continue honoring metalsmith traditions and different art forms.

"I think that that's a lot of what this show is about, legacy and the ideation of these crafts over time and how we build on those greater context and contribute to a larger dialogue with our views in art," Naimo said.

Liz Steiner, ECU alumna and Curator of the symposium said the exhibition is important for the strengthening of current and future partnerships between the university and Emerge.

Over the years at ECU, Steiner said there's been a lot of divisiveness in the SoAD in terms of the differences between production, academic and fine jewelry art. She said the exhibition does a good job of showing that combined, each craft is one big community.

Steiner said the exhibition would feature fine jewelry, art jewelry, big sculptural pieces and more. The exhibition is important to the metals community at large, she said and shows the depth of the metalsmithing field.

"I feel like people have a very kind of, maybe narrow view of what jewelry is," Steiner said. "It can be all of these different things and all of these different kinds of art forms, and I feel like this exhibition does a really excellent job in showcasing that."

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

Magnolia Belles host karaoke night

Martha Nebab
TEC STAFF

On Friday the Magnolia Belles, one of ECU's a cappella groups, will host a karaoke night from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Black Box Theater in the Main Campus Student Center to generate interest for their spring auditions.

Bianca Seagraves, director of marketing and recruitment for the Magnolia Belles, said the event is free and open to the public with no need to RSVP for a spot through Engage. Seagraves also said people can drop by and stay for as long as they'd like, as they aren't required to stay for the full two hours.



Bianca Seagraves

Visitors are able to choose any song they'd like, Seagraves said, where the mic will be open to any type of singing. Besides the freedom their karaoke night will provide, Seagraves said it's also a great way to give exposure to her a cappella group, especially with their upcoming auditions next Tuesday and Thursday, as well as their Spring Concert.

"We're looking to have a really good time, but we're also looking to get the word out about who the Magnolia Belles are, because we're not well-known on campus. Besides looking for people to audition, we also want to host a creative space for people to sing," Seagraves said.

Seagraves said the Belles will also be hosting a raffle that visitors can enter at the beginning of the night. Towards the end of the night, with 30 minutes left for people to sing karaoke, Seagraves said the winner will be announced after a name will be drawn from the bowl.

Ramsay Stroup, vice president of the Magnolia Belles, said the raffle will require people to guess the number of candies in a jar, where the correct guess will reward the winner with all the candy. Stroup also said the Belles will be creating a prize basket with various items.

"There's gonna be things like ECU T-shirts in it. There will also be a Starbucks gift card, but not for a lot of money, but it's still a Starbucks gift card," Stroup said. "There will also be some Squishmallows since I've heard those are really big right now. The basket will have a lot of cool things like that."

Stroup said all of the members will be partic-



JAYLIN ROBERTS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University students will belt out their favorite karaoke songs in Black Box Theater.

icipating by signing a song of their own choice. Halfway through the night or towards the end of the night, Stroup said the group will also perform one of the songs they've learned last semester to show what the Belles' a cappella performances are like to those that are interested in auditioning.

In February 2022, Stroup said the Belles held an a cappella jam where they invited other a cappella groups to perform, such as those from University of North Carolina Greensboro, North Carolina State University and ECU's second a cappella group, Drastic Measures.

"After everyone performed their songs, we hosted a karaoke night, but it was only for the people who were invited. It was a really nice way for us to hear each other's music and different songs, but now we want to open up that event to everyone in the audience."

Arizona Spaugh, senior chemistry major, said she's been a member of the Belles for two-and-a-half years and is excited about karaoke night. Spaugh said that she hopes the event will serve as a nice breather for students following the first week of classes.

Spaugh said she loves watching other people

sing because she believes there's always a meaning behind someone's choice of song. At karaoke night, Spaugh plans to perform two songs, "Lost Boy" by Ruth B and "Just Give Me a Reason" by P!NK. Though she is excited and as been with the Magnolia Belles for over two years, she said she still gets nervous behind the mic.

"Even though I've performed most of my life, I still have agonizing stage fright, where I shake so bad it's not even funny," Spaugh said. "Still, I try not to let it stop me. I want to share what's in my heart and I want people to not be afraid of putting themselves out there, so they can sing their heart out."

Though Spaugh doesn't know what to expect from the event, she said the night is also an opportunity to socialize with the Belles.

Spaugh said she wants to show visitors that the group empowers women through music while supporting one another in and out of rehearsals.

"I want people to know we're an all-female a cappella group on campus. We do a lot of free performances and sing together, but I want people, or even our prospective members, to see that we're a very supportive group," Spaugh said. "We love each other just as much as we love singing with each other."

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



The start of the new year is accompanied by new movies hitting the box office and among those is the new movie "M3GAN" centered around the idea of the rise of Artificial Intelligence.

REVIEW: 'M3GAN' is a great start to 2023

Ray Waddell
TEC STAFF

Horrifying, hilarious and charming, "M3GAN" shows audiences that A.I. is on the rise and it's coming for our Tiktok dances.

While the consensus for producers around this time is, "Why try? Oscar season isn't till November," "M3GAN" strives to bring quality entertainment to moviegoers. Directed by Gerard Johnstone and written by Akela Cooper, "M3GAN" takes a different approach to horror that audiences haven't seen since 2019's "Vivarium."



Ray Waddell

At first glance, yes, this is just another creepy doll movie that takes inspiration from the multitude of other films like it. But as the story develops, it becomes more of a psychological horror rivaling the likes of "Hereditary" and "The Lighthouse."

The film centers around Gemma and her eight-year-old orphaned niece, Cady. After the loss of Cady's parents, the young and over-worked Gemma becomes her new caretaker. Being completely oblivious to how to parent, Gemma designs M3GAN, a lifelike doll she programs to be Cady's friend, teacher, playmate and

protector. This will, of course, lead to unforeseen consequences for both Cady and her aunt Gemma.

The concept of this movie stems from the fear of superior artificial intelligence - a fear that materializes into reality as the years go by. Audiences may be constantly reminded of the 2018 game "Detroit: Become Human" upon seeing M3GAN. Not only because she resembles a pivotal character within the game, but because she represents many themes surrounding artificial intelligence.

The theme of feeling lost in a connected world is a deep topic to explore. The effects of grief and dealing with trauma are skillfully addressed throughout the characters' arcs and the story's metaphors.

As a character, M3GAN is essentially a smartphone personified as a little girl. Cady's obsession with M3GAN parallels real-life dependence on technology as a form of escapism. Becoming engulfed in high-tech is a common side-effect of trauma and the film displays this unbelievably well.

But don't let these complex themes lead you to believe this movie is some boring think-piece. There is an abundance of comedy sprinkled within this movie, though perhaps too much. Like adding more than enough sugar to your lemonade, it ruins the overall taste.

Tonally this movie suffers from the same issues critics had

with Jordan Peele's "Us." During the more serious moments, some scenes take the comedic route to break up the tension. With this style of writing becoming more and more of a popular phenomenon, it's probably time Hollywood learns to let tense scenes breathe.

"M3GAN" is a prime example of a movie originally meant to be rated R, but toned down for larger audiences. While these changes usually make the movie a shell of its once-great concept, it didn't have that much of an effect here. Of course, a rated R director's cut would be awesome, but it wouldn't drastically change the landscape of the movie.

Using a combination of puppetry, animatronics, visual effects and a human actor, M3GAN is an absolute marvel to look at. Her sound design makes her seem creepily endearing. While most people never let a child near that thing, you can see why an overworked, stressed-out, inexperienced caretaker would.

Overall, this movie is a diamond in an upcoming pile of coal. This month will be hard for moviegoers, but "M3GAN" gave us a delicious dessert before we dig into a burnt, tasteless dinner. So let's sit back and savor the flavor.

RATING: 4/5

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

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