

OPINION: To the girl that asked me when Michael Phelps is supposed to swim this week during the Olympics: Do you now understand why I instantly walked away from you without acknowledging your question? **A4**

FEATURES: Best selling artist scheduled to appear for a lecture. Find out in features. **A6**

SPORTS: The ECU baseball team begins its season against No. 2 ranked Virginia this weekend. Turn to sports to find out more about the Cavs. **A7**

BRIEFS

Facebook group catches eye of university



Brad Teague
STAFF WRITER

A group on Facebook was created a few weeks ago called "I hate the ECU Subway Workers" and served as a place where ECU students could express their feelings about the Subway service they receive at The Galley and Reade Street Market. The group quickly grew to approximately 460 members, many of which posted comments about their poor experiences at the campus Subways, as well as some of the other dining locations on campus. Several of the comments dealt with sanitation concerns, rudeness from the employees, overcharging and poor quality of the sandwiches.

The group caught the eye of the Campus Dining department, who contacted the group's creator to set up a meeting with him and some of the group members. "They weren't angry at all, they really just wanted to hear our opinion. They were actually extremely inviting," said the group creator, Andre Foster. After receiving the message, Foster messaged the group members and asked for 10 to attend the meeting to express their concerns.

The meeting occurred Monday and several issues were discussed. Foster recounts, "At the meeting, my group brought up a lot. One being sanitation; we mentioned that we had seen some employees wiping their noses with their gloves and then continuing to serve food with that same glove. We mentioned that the general attitude of the workers was unlikeable, and we didn't like going in to make an order and having to wait several minutes because the employee was conversing with their co-worker about what was on television last night. We mentioned we didn't like seeing the workers eating behind the counter, and we wanted to stop seeing some of the employees swiping for Pirate Bucks when you want a meal, and vice versa. And, last but not least, we wanted to see the employees stop making up item prices; we brought up that there have been several times where the prices of items have been incorrect."

Although the meeting had no concrete resolutions, some students have noticed a change in the Subway workers and experience since then. "I definitely believe that conditions will improve," says Foster. "And if I'm wrong, well, the group is still up, and maybe it will continue to grow until action is taken."

Some resolutions that may come of the meeting are worker evaluation sheets handed out with food, and consideration of sanitation. The possibility of students being able to see their available Pirate Bucks and meals online was mentioned, but the Campus Dining explained how they were unable to do anything about that concern. The university would have to change that, but the Dining office feels it is unlikely that will happen.

As for the Facebook group, it is still up and running. However, Campus Dining did ask to have some of the comments that they viewed as racist, derogatory and/or offensive deleted. Students will also have to decide whether or not the conditions at the ECU Subways have improved.

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

WEB POLL

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NO

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Gender gap at ECU slowly closing

Cassie McLean
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

According to the American Council on Education, the college gender gap appears to be closing.

In the fall of 2008, as enrollment at ECU reached almost 28,000, it seemed the head count of men and women was, as usual, unbalanced.

Of the almost 21,000 undergraduates, only approximately 8,700 were males.

Despite the usual majority of women, the gap does seem to be improving as much as the national averages are. Since 2004, the total number of men enrolled in ECU's graduate and undergraduate programs has risen from 8,000 to around 11,000 students.

Currently, women hold the majority at ECU at approximately 60 percent.

Freshman Courtney Wornick

believes the gap will eventually even itself out. In the meantime, though, she said she is boldly aware of the difference in women and men on campus.

"I feel like there are way more girls than just the 60/40 ratio," she said.

As to why, Wornick said she can only guess it has a lot to do with the activities offered at the school.

"I feel like the school has more girl-oriented activities and stuff — like sorority life is so big," she said.

Sophomore Samara Griffin disagrees.

"I think the gap is going to continue to stay the same," she said. She also noted that the difference was "noticeable."

"In my classes, it is certainly not even, but it's nothing drastic," she said.

As a positive effect of the high rates of women in schools, women

seem to be more competitive in the work force and are seemingly closing the gap in that arena.

According to the American Council on Education, "Women now earn as many professional and doctoral degrees as men. Women also earn the majority of master's degrees due to their predominance in popular fields such as education and nursing."

It continued, noting that "men continue to earn the majority of master's degrees in engineering and business administration."

Sophomore Matthew Patton discussed this issue.

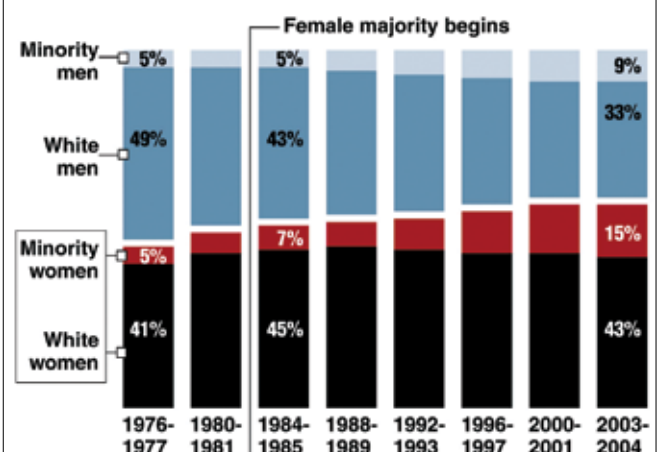
Of the high rates of female students, Patton said, "That's a good thing!" and added, on a more serious note, "It'll help with women in leadership. It's definitely good that we have the [high] ratio."

> GENDER page A3

Gender gap spikes

More women are attending college and earning bachelor's degrees than their male counterparts; minority women have tripled their share of degrees since the 1976-77 academic year.

Bachelor's degrees earned By gender and race/ethnicity



Note: Data excludes non-resident aliens and individuals of unknown race/ethnicity. Source: American Council on Education. Graphic: Chicago Tribune. © 2006 MCT



LUKE RAYSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Freshman Lindsay Hamm uses her key to get into Fletcher Hall.

ECU remains a secure campus

Nicolas Verhoeven
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 2009, according to the Crime In the United States (CIUS) publication by the FBI, the rate of violent crimes decreased by 4.4 percent, and the rate of property crimes decreased by 6.1 percent. This is not simply due to a capable national police force, but also accredited to local enforcement around the nation, including city police and even campus police.

Specifically, the ECU Police Department manages to keep as safe an environment as possible. With approximately 54 officers, ECU Police provide peace of mind to roughly 27,000 students.

According to Sgt. Derri Stormer of the ECU Crime Prevention Department, "When students think about it, they'd think you'd need hundreds more officers, but our 30,000 students should feel safe because we are a fully sworn police force."

Though 50 to 60 officers may seem like a small number for such a massive institution, it seems as if the police force, utilizing the traditional strategies used by other capable police forces, is quite confident in attaining a high level of safety on campus. One strategy involves breaking up campus into "zones" for higher response rates to distress calls.

Response rates, however, are unpredictable. Even so, students and staff can take solace in the effectiveness of these "zone" strategies, because "nine out of 10 times, someone will already be in the area, ready to respond," said Stormer.

In cases in which an officer is not present, ECU has figured out ways to protect students more rapidly through various other methods. Several of these methods can be found by simply walking around campus, such as cameras to make potentially unsafe areas on campus more appealing to walkers. These cameras are an observational method of defense to deter potential criminals.

A second, effective and direct means of prevention are the blue light phones stationed in various positions. In case victims, or potential victims, feel as if they may need assistance and do not have their phone or lack the ECU Police contact number, these phones are both easy to use and fast at getting help to the desired location.

For those who would like more, training is located on the ECU Police Web site. Specifically, Rape Aggression Defense training (RAD) is given free of charge.

However, students feel the least safe during night hours. Dimmed visibility and scar-

city of witnesses, among other such threats, has student Lauren Carlston saying, "I feel like I should be safe, but I just avoid the risk of walking at night."

Other students feel the same way, such as Ashley Duggins, mentioning that she "does not feel very safe at all" during the later evening hours.

ECU has recognized these concerns, and although the university has a powerful police force, it sees the need for an increased security system. This security system involves vehicle pickup widely known as Safe Ride, while a more immediate and subtle response team was introduced as Student Patrol. Both services help students in threatening positions, though only Safe Ride functions off campus.

Although students themselves may feel safe, according to the ECU Crime Database, it is larceny that seems to comprise most of the criminal activity on campus. Of all the larceny crimes, however, 90 percent were due to unsecured items, according to Sgt. Stormer. Students fail to realize that it only takes a minute or two to steal an item that has been left behind temporarily.

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NC History curriculum change sparks outrage

Tucker Middleton
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has proposed a controversial curriculum change that would eliminate the teaching of pre-1877 U.S. History in public high schools.

The proposed changes would not cut U.S. History out of North Carolina's educational system entirely. In fact, the curriculum change seeks to extend the coverage of early U.S. History taught in lower grades; the proposal would extend the U.S. History programs in elementary and middle schools. Students would receive two full years of U.S. History — one year in the fifth grade and one in middle school — as well as a full year of North Carolina History in middle school.

The curriculum change would cause only North Carolina high school history classes, taught in the 11th grade, to begin at 1877, a change that would result in skipping over entire eras in American history, including the nation's founding and slavery and its abolition.

N.C. Senate leader Marc Basnight expressed his disapproval of the curriculum change in an open letter to Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson

dated Feb. 12.

"To exclude the founding of our nation and its early struggles from our high school curriculum would be a disservice to our students and teachers alike," Basnight wrote. He said that any change in the teaching of history in North Carolina's high schools "...must be an enhancement to what students learn in high school and not downshifting in any way."

ECU history professor John Tilley agrees that the proposal is a "downshifting" and says the curriculum change is not going to benefit the educational system or the students being taught.

Tilley distributes a quiz of basic historical facts to his introductory American History classes at the beginning of every semester, and he said the majority of all students fail the quiz. In his view, history is not being covered extensively enough in North Carolina's public high schools. Adding more history classes to earlier grades while cutting instruction in later grades is not going to benefit history education, he says, because young children in elementary and middle schools are likely to have trouble grasping the complex concepts involved with early

> HISTORY page A3

Lounge event creates eclectic atmosphere

Michelle Collier
STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Union's Signature Sounds and the Word of Mouth poetry organization brought students Signature Lounge Part II on Monday evening. The event was a collaboration of efforts by the two groups and was held upstairs in Mendenhall.

Signature Sounds is the Black Student Union's vocal ensemble and they have performed at various events and in many churches around Greenville. Signature Sounds sang their welcome to the audience as well as their own rendition of Usher's "Slow Jam." Individual members gave the audience a glimpse into Valentine's past and present by singing solo performances of love songs ranging from Nat King Cole's "I Love You for Sentimental Reasons" to more recent R&B hits.

Tammara Izzard, the director of Signature Sounds and ECU senior, said that she wanted to give students an alternative Valentine's Day celebration.

"I want students to be able to enjoy a different atmosphere than the clubs," she said. She wanted to make sure that the evening was romantic. The room was decked in red and pink Valentine's decorations, and the songs and poems all focused on love and relationships.

Johnny Alfredo Martinez, the director of the Word of Mouth

poetry organization, also wanted to provide an alternative environment for ECU students. He said, "We did this last semester and we had a great turnout. It shows that this is the type of environment needed on our campus." He wants students to step away from the alcohol and club scene to listen to music and stretch their minds by going to more intellectual events.

That is also his goal in Word of Mouth. As a poet himself, Martinez wants students and other poets to tap into their intellectual side and learn how to express themselves through the written and spoken word.

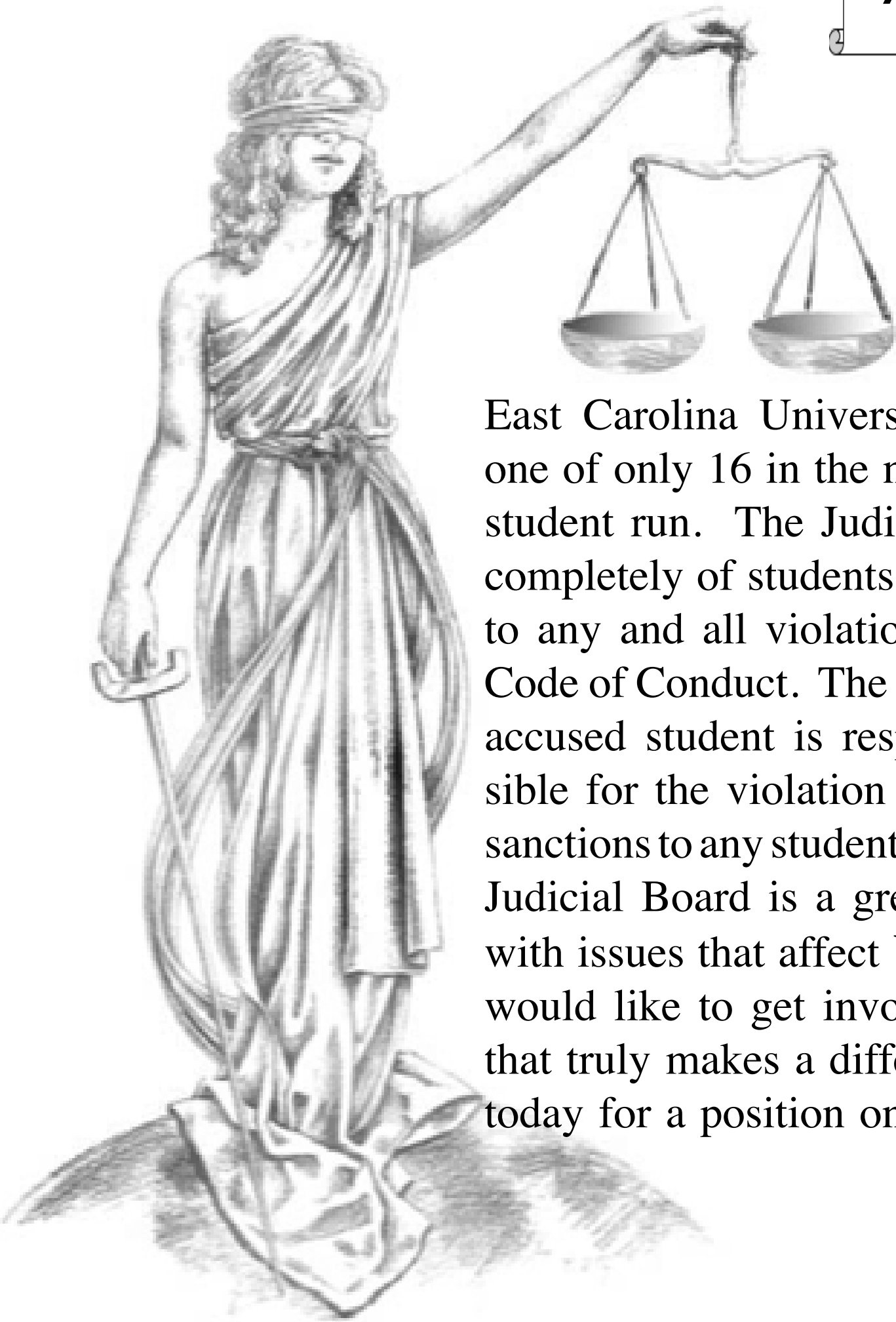
"It is a place for people and other poets to gather where we can scream, cry, yell, laugh — all in the name of poetry," said Martinez.

Brad Congleton, ECU's Student Body president, came along with the Student Body Chief of Staff to show his support to the Black Student Union. "We want to support student organizations and do our best to give ECU students other things to do than go downtown," they both remarked. Congleton explained that he is trying to establish an alcohol-free student center downtown where they can host more events like Signature Lounge. He feels that students get tired of always having to go to Mendenhall for these sorts of events.

> LOUNGE page A3

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HISTORY

continued from A1

American history; and those who do understand are likely to forget what they have learned by the time they reach college.

The popular Facebook group "History Did Not Begin in 1877!" has nearly 9,000 members and has heightened awareness of this controversial curriculum change among high school and college students alike. The group got ECU junior Will Hiebert's attention, though not for the reason the group's creator anticipated.

"Teachers spend so much time every year teaching the Revolutionary and Civil Wars that they get behind and never teach past World War I," said Hiebert. "Go into an intro-level history class here when they're teaching the Cold War — it will be easy to pick out students from North Carolina. They'll be the ones frantically taking notes and asking a ton of questions: they know nothing about it."

Professor Tilley agrees that North Carolina students may be at a disadvantage when it comes to their knowledge of history when they get to the college level. His students from New Jersey may be more likely to already have an understanding of historical events, as it is state law in New Jersey that high schools provide two years of American History.

Tilley suggests that North Carolina should adopt a similar stance on the teaching of U.S. History and use the block schedule system adopted by most North Carolina high schools as an advantageous approach to teaching such a wide scope of subjects throughout our nation's history.

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LOUNGE

continued from A1

"Students get sick of going to things on campus ... we need to host more of these events somewhere else," said Congleton. He is trying to raise awareness for the need of alternative environments for students.

Congleton and other audience members enjoyed the intimate setting and array of refreshments while Signature Sounds participants gave a mixture of a cappella and accompanied performances.

Poets from Word of Mouth recited their original works while the audience snapped their applause.

Senior Brandon Sanders, the Black Student Union president, came to enjoy the festivities and talent. Sanders worked with Izzard to help put on the show. He explained that the BSU is frequently putting on similar shows to raise money for charities.

After the successful evening, Sanders, Izzard and Martinez all began planning for the next Signature Lounge.

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

GENDER continued from A1

do see a lot more women instead of men, but it really depends on the class. Obviously your construction class is going to have a lot more guys than an early childhood education class."

Anthony Britt, director of Undergraduate Admissions at ECU, is well aware of the statistics.

"Between 55 and 60 percent of all enrollment across the nation is female," he said. "And ECU the past two years has been right at 58 percent and 42 percent."

Britt noted that the applicant rate was exactly the same, implying that women and men are admitted at exactly the same rate proportionally.

Britt proposed several theories as to why the rate of women surpasses that of men every year.

"Some people like to point to history. ECU was originally a teacher's college. In those days, teaching was one of the few professions women dominated outside of the home," he explained.

In addition to the teaching field,

ECU is known for the largest school of nursing in the state. Britt believes this too is a contributing factor.

Despite the traditionally female careers, women are also strongly encouraged, this day in age, to pursue careers that are primarily male-dominated, like engineering, Britt said. He also believes ECU has a larger population of women going into medicine and business.

From a biological viewpoint, Britt explains that in times of plenty, more women are born. "Sociologists have looked at biological data which shows that recently the female birth rate has increased." He added, "Although I do not know how much credibility you can assign that argument."

Perhaps most notably, though, Britt said the economy had much to do with the female population. In times of economic turmoil, many women turn to a college education to gain "financial independence and to avoid having to rely on someone to run their lifestyle."

"It may simply be a matter of economic necessity," he said.

He jokingly added, "My other half tells me it's because women are smarter."

According to Britt, officials at UNC and Duke have trouble explaining the female population phenomena as well.

All that is known for sure is that women continue to hold the majority within universities across the nation, as at ECU, and that the gap is ever so slowly decreasing.

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

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- There is no cost or sitting fee for graduates
- For distance Education or online students: If students cannot get to campus to take their photos during that week, the Buccaneer staff will accept high-resolution digital photos from students. The submitted photo(s) should look professional, and graduates should be wearing business attire in the photo. The Buccaneer reserves the right to deny a photo deemed inappropriate.
- There will be another portrait session (TBA) for spring graduates (and make-up portraits) in the spring semester of 2010.

If there are any other concerns, please call: 328-4712

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

Can a photography class please go around and take pictures of all the weird things people do on campus during the day and publish it in the newspaper. I think it would be very entertaining!

I don't understand why people feel the need to line up around the elevator to go up a three story building, honestly by the time I take the stairs I'm already in the class before you get up there.

The police here need to chill... You know they were the same way in college.

North Carolina should just ban fun based on looking at the recent laws we are passing.

Dear roommate: I charge you more than your portion of utilities are each month. I charge for having to deal with your stupidity.

To the girl at Rumors on Friday night with a skirt on without underwear: You need help. That was the most disgusting thing I have ever seen!

Dear garbage truck at Fletcher: Stop slamming the dumpster down every single morning and waking me up at 7:30, and snow blowers at 8 am Saturday...goes for you too.

Okay, so I know that you're freshmen but it doesn't take a genius to figure out that when your professor is talking you should stop it's rude and childish and other people are trying to learn

Why is attendance mandatory when the professor just reads PowerPoint's off the board and then posts them online?

My English professor said "more better" in class today. Really?

I think I'm pregnant by my downstairs neighbor

I hate when people walking on campus just stop right in front of you when they see someone they know.

Frat boys disgust me.

I wish I was a boy so I wouldn't look like such a slut.

"That's what she said..." well whoever SHE is, she sounds like a whore..

To the girl that asked me when Michael Phelps is supposed to swim this week during the Olympics: Do you now understand why I instantly walked away from you without acknowledging your question?

Who closes the door when the bus driver gets off?

ECU - FAIL The fact that you're considering cancelling the drunk buses make it seem that you're ok with more DWIs and alcohol related deaths in Greenville. Cancel the routes that have the problems or put cops on the buses.

I'm in my third year of college and I can't even pass a test to work at Red Lobster.

I just hit a new low. Poured my beer into an empty coke can so I could drink in Wal-Mart.

Who tries to make bacon in the toaster? I need a new roommate!

After you let me pee on you I realized our relationship isn't going anywhere. Stop calling me.

How can you afford to smoke a blunt a day but not pay rent on time?

Your thighs are not your waist. Your pants don't go there!

To the kid in my oceanography class that always takes my seat: YOU SUCK!! Find your own!

I could not have asked for a better boyfriend, you're my best friend.

Spanish professor, when you come to class sneezing everywhere, coughing, drenched in sweat and without a voice, it is okay to cancel class.

Sex with you is about as pleasuring as going to my gynecologist.

ECU girls wearing leggings I know you want it... and I know I want it.

I'm pretty sure the lady who charged me for my smoothie who told me it didn't go through, just wanted to charge me twice.

People, alcohol is bad for you!!!

FYI: You lost the right to talk to me when you took off your pants.

I still get nervous every time you walk into the room.

Who would have thought that such a beautiful girl would be in a protein purification class? Simply remarkable!

Transferring to be with your boyfriend? Idiot...wait until he dumps you! Then what?

Ummmm... OK! Next time I have a bloody nose in the computer lab, I'll make sure not to rub down the keyboard with a smelly sanitizer wipe. JUST FOR YOU. Cause your opinion of what I do REALLY matters to me.

I'm glad campus safety is keeping everyone safe by running people off the sidewalk with their golf cart.

After two girls got done making out at the last party I went to, the one girl then announced that they have been making out for 5 years and do it because her friend "reminds her of her mom." ...Wow.

I've never dated anyone who told me my breath smelled bad as many times as you do.

The decade of recycled fashion



Emily Winterhalter
OPINION COLUMNIST

Furbies, MTV's "TRL," Michael Jordan, Nintendo, N'SYNC and Bill Clinton saying, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman!" Thinking about the nature of these items, there should be a specific time period that comes to your mind. Is it, perhaps, the 1990s? If so, good.

As college students, it's pretty easy to assume that we all grew up in the same decade, give or take. 1990-1999 should have been your early years; the time of our development where Nickelodeon ruled our TVs and boy-band pop music dominated our stereos.

Another important part that defined that decade is what we wore. You should have been old enough to dress yourself, but even if you weren't, I'm sure you still remember what was "cool" and what wasn't.

I remember a lot of distinct clothing styles from the 1990s era. Being a girl, I specifically remember the butterfly hair-pieces; there were small ones, and big ones that were just silver clips with giant wings like Bobble heads, and yes, they were cool.

As for pants, the bigger the flare on the bottom of your jeans, the better! Bellbottoms had made an extreme comeback for girls, while guys' pants sagged

past their bottoms. Jerseys were also a big thing, especially the Chicago Bulls, since Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman had become household names.

Entering the second month of our new year, 2010, we are also entering the second month of a new decade. It's hard to predict what will be fashionable in 2017, but the thinking behind history is that in order to prepare for your future, you must first understand your past. What exactly was "cool" in our most recent decade, the infamous 2000s?

Looking back to 2000-2009, I tried to think of styles that particularly stood out from the decade. Reminiscing about what was fashionable during the past 10 years, I realized that the majority of the styles weren't new at all; they were merely comebacks. This thought led me to the conclusion that the 2000s were the years of recycled fashion; many of the things we wore were just new versions of old fashion statements.

In the early part of the decade, the "preppy" look was what it was all about. The logos were the biggest part of the outfit - the Hollister, American Eagle and A&F logos were essential. Preps were what most people aimed to look like back in the '80s. Logos were also a must to be displayed with sunglasses and purses, among others. The millennium brought focus on who, not what, you wore.

And what about our controversial leggings? Our culture seems to have a love-hate

relationship with this one, as displayed in the many Pirate Rants. And yet, I still see them on almost everyone. Leggings were in their prime in the '80s but made their comeback about midway through the previous decade and are worn underneath dresses or in many other ways. Another '80s signature back to haunt us is skinny jeans. In the early part of the decade, some of the "scene" guys were even sporting this trend. Now, I'm proud to say, it remains more of a fashion statement for the females, which I believe is a very positive development.

Accessories are part of the recycling, too. Aviator sunglasses, similar to Tom Cruise's signature style, became popular following the debut of "Top Gun." Those became trendy again as recently as a couple of years ago. The '80s aren't the only generators of comeback styles: Jackie O's influence on the '60s era contributed to the hype of the glasses plaguing our stores for years now, the round "bug-eye" type we all know and love - or hate.

Our decade has just started and clothing styles won't be the only thing to evolve throughout these next 10 years. While some notable trends were borrowed from previous decades, it's probably a good thing some were left behind, because if we aren't careful, we might start flaunting things like mullets and shoulder pads again.

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ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN PARHAMOVICH

You're so vain



Stephanie Fu
OPINION COLUMNIST

but that one doesn't."

After thinking a moment, he adds in conclusion, "Someone who is just confident and not cocky will be able to take any criticism and build on it."

With his last wise words, I could not agree more. Confidence is important in interviews to find jobs, which are something that we all will have to become skilled in the practice of after graduation. Even for part-time jobs, how many managers at a store in the mall or a restaurant manager would hire someone who cannot even look them in the eye, shake their hand and make small talk? The managers would be thinking that that person wouldn't be able to greet customers or talk to 10 people sitting around a table and present them with an enjoyable dining experience. The same applies to interviews that will follow post graduation. A CEO or a principal of a school does not want to hire someone who is not confident in their ability to be a great leader or teacher. On the other end, no one will hire someone with little experience and a fresh graduate who is so confident that they think there is nothing they can learn and that they are good enough to take the position of the interviewer.

The fine line between the two qualities is sometimes hard to keep for some people. Nonetheless, self-confidence is still an important quality to have and all the years of elementary school and seemingly pointless encouragement is necessary. But like anything, it should only come in moderation because no one is perfect and a little criticism in certain areas can help someone work on a side of them they don't like or improve a skill. Always be open to a little change.

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Christians with great ideas



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

"Glen Coco? Four for you, Glen Coco. You go, Glen Coco! And none for Gretchen Wieners. Bye!"

It never gets old. This is just one of a handful of one-liners that I habitually use in my everyday language. I'm referring, of course, to "Mean Girls," an instant cinema classic. Even though it's a reference to candy-cane grams, this particular quote poignantly illustrates the viciously unequal distribution of Valentine's Day gifts. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is wider than my promiscuous neighbor's vagina. I'm not bitter because I'm single. For the record, I did receive a Valentine's Day card, albeit from the Pirate Tutoring Center. Thank God that nonsense is over, at least for this year. As a matter of fact, a lot of people are thinking about ways they can thank God right about now as Lent is upon us.

Lent is not just what happens when your lazy ass ignores the mesh trap on the dryer. It is also a period of 40 days where Christians renounce certain pleasures in order to make reverent sacrifices to God. It is

intended to mirror the time when Jesus went out into the wilderness for 40 days before he started his ministry. During this time, he experienced many temptations that he was able to overcome. In honor of this feat of willpower, Christians today abstain from small, personal joys like chocolate, beer, or in Josh Hartnett's case, sex.

Over the ages, a few disgruntled Christians thought 40 days was an awfully long time to withdraw from something. So, in a landmark decision that bucks the trends of Christendom everywhere, they opted for upfront indulgences and merriment instead of deferring to the promise of future reward. They invented Mardi Gras.

Now, some say that Mardi Gras is derived from a slew of Pagan holidays and feasts that the Catholic Church couldn't abolish. Therefore, they had to incorporate these festivals and put a Christian spin on them. It always seems like there are two versions of history: that which is dictated by the Roman Catholics, and that which is remembered by those not sucking on Caesar's phallus. At any rate, I'm going with the disgruntled Christian version; it makes them more relatable and less like the nut-job on the mall that always tells me I'm going to hell.

Additionally, there is an inverted logic in their thinking: splurge before periods of hiatus. It certainly makes the

withdrawal a lot easier to cope with. Case in point, who hasn't drunk themselves into a coma only to wake up the next day vowing to never even look at alcohol again, much less drink it? It is possible to have too much of a good thing. Clearly you need not be religious to experience the benefits of a little self-denial.

For those of you considering giving up something for Lent, allow me to proffer a few suggestions. Abstain from playing Farmville on campus computers; you will look less like a douche. For 40 days, don't text in class; you'll be amazed at how much easier it will be to study for finals. And for God's sake, please refrain from dressing like a complete troll; I feel like if I get too close to you, I will catch Chlamydia. And die.

My guilty pleasure? For 40 days I will not watch "Mean Girls," and I will limit my daily allusions to that great cinematic achievement to a paltry one per day. I will also attempt to curtail my lust for Tina Fey - proof that a truly sexy woman is one that can write an unparalleled comedic script. So come on, Pirate Nation! We can do this. Who knows -- after 40 days, we might just be feeling a little less like the Plastics and a little more like Kevin Gnapoor, who is a math enthusiast and badass emcee.

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

Scribbles to the Captain

The East Carolinian welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number and must be signed (except those sent by e-mail). Letters selected for publication may be edited and may be republished in any format. All letters submitted become the property of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or E-mail: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

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"As we look ahead into the next century, leaders will be those who empower others."

BILL GATES



Aries - Both genders work together to get romance on track. This could be in the form of a play or some other dramatic presentation. Take extra care of your voice. When the Moon leaves your sign today, you're fully prepared to accept the comforts provided by associates. Alcohol is not a necessary element. Joy is.

Taurus - Love enters the picture and takes over your imagination. Use your talents to motivate your partner. Dare to dream sweeter dreams. Ease into the weekend by finishing a task that you've been avoiding. Then put your emotions on the line, long-distance.

Gemini - Create the mood you want. Show that you're passionate about your idea and want to see it through. A brief prayer or meditation couldn't hurt. Challenge yourself to speak up in a tight situation. Choose words carefully to avoid misunderstanding. Stay professional. There's no need to argue.

Cancer - A female provides a ton of ideas that all seem to elevate your mood. As you feel more capable, you achieve personal growth overnight. It all sinks in later. Never let it be said that you don't enjoy a fight. What you like even better is to have someone in your corner to cheer you on. You can win one today.

Leo - Both genders work well together today. All you have to do is allow them to choose the game, modify the rules and grab the appropriate prize. Today you get practical as you create just the right message with a floral arrangement or muted lighting. Add a splash of color to cheer up a room.

Virgo - Teamwork allows all parties to throw ideas into the ring. Today's project can use more than one set of eyes. By day's end you all agree on the conclusion. Each time you open your mouth, you have a chance to create connections. Dig a bit deeper to discover the right question. Then ask, and prepare to listen.

Libra - Your private thoughts don't mesh with those of your co-workers. As long as the issues aren't critical, this won't matter. Differences of opinion sort themselves out. Things run more smoothly if you devise a way to be emotionally persuasive while maintaining the bottom line. It would be easy to overspend today.

Scorpio - Your sense of what really matters changes today. Your independent attitude shifts toward a more sympathetic appreciation for family and associates. You have lots of little details to take care of now. Fortunately, you have plenty of energy and enthusiasm for the task. You might even get paid!

Sagittarius - You feel like you've been there before. Creative ideas flow easily and inspire you to greater heights. Persuade yourself to let go of limitations. Don't be surprised if the first words from your mouth include high praise for an associate. You don't need the spotlight. You'll get plenty of attention later.

Capricorn - The thing about love is that it grows faster when you lavish it. No need to limit the extent of your appreciations, but you need to speak them out loud. Lively discussions with your partner lead to exciting conclusions. This game has two rules: comfort is essential, and playful persuasion gets what you want.

Aquarius - Speak about independent thinking today with co-workers. Encourage others to participate while sharing your ideas for a dynamic new sales pitch or marketing idea. There's a shift in your thinking. You're probably far more supportive of others now than you have been the last few days. Help family members complete projects.

Pisces - Take your time today with ideas that need quiet. No one expects you to express enthusiasm all the time. As the sun enters your sign, you want to retreat and regenerate. Despite the pace today, you find yourself in the right place at the right time. Sell your ideas. Buyers are listening.

Sudoku

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

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

Pirates & Salty Wenches



"Pirates and Salty Wenches" is for entertainment purposes only. Vivian Stockton is not a certified sex columnist. She can only offer advice of an experienced college student. Please direct all comments, questions or concerns to the Editor in Chief, at editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Oral – Is it sex or not?

Vivian Stockton
SEX AND RELATIONSHIP
COLUMNIST

Last weekend, some friends and I got on the topic of the "base system." In case you are unfamiliar with this, it's the baseball analogy for how far you go (sexually) with someone. What I learned a long time ago was first base is kissing, second base is heavy petting, third base is oral sex and a home run is good old fashion sex. The guys, however, had a different opinion – they said that a home run is anything that ended in one or both persons climaxing.

Being very thrown off by our different views on the base system, we started to discuss what constitutes as sex. I said that I don't consider oral sex to be "actual" sex – it's only foreplay. The guys again had a different opinion, saying that oral sex is sex because one person's bodily fluids are entering another person's body – "Sex is even in the name!" they said. And just so we're all clear on what constitutes as oral sex, it is anything where a person's mouth comes in contact with another person's genitals or anus.

Now, would I say that I've had sex with everyone that I've engaged in oral sex with? No. Before I officially lost my virginity, I gave head. For me, oral sex was a warm-up to actual intercourse. And I wouldn't add a notch to my bed post for someone with whom I only engaged in oral sex.

However, that does not mean that oral sex doesn't have many of the same risks as vaginal or anal intercourse. The only thing you're really protecting yourself from by having oral sex as opposed to vaginal sex is pregnancy (unless you talk to the crazy mother of one of my sister's friends, who swears up and down that she knew a woman who got pregnant in her throat and lost the baby by regurgitating it).

When you engage in oral sex, you are still opening yourself up to a whole world of STDs. I'm fairly confident that not many ladies are requesting a condom to be used when she is performing fellatio – who really likes the taste of latex? And I don't know about you all, but I've never heard of anyone carrying around a dental dam in the event that he might be going

down on a woman later that evening. But if you're not careful, you can contract syphilis, gonorrhea (which could easily be mistaken for a sore throat), hepatitis A, warts and herpes. Luckily, it is very unlikely for one to spread HIV to another person during oral sex, but it is still possible.

The main STD that I want to draw to your attention, in regard to oral sex, is herpes. If you allow a person with a chancre sore on his or her mouth to go down on you without some sort of protection, it may actually transfer their oral herpes on your genitals.

Oral sex is no joke, ladies and gentlemen, and it is not something that should be taken lightly. If you can't stand the taste of latex when performing fellatio, maybe experiment with non-latex condoms. And if you can't handle the taste of those, at least make sure that he doesn't ejaculate in your mouth (but we all know that there is pre-ejaculate, so that may be difficult). As for cunnilingus, the best way to protect yourself is a dental dam (plastic wrap can be used for this as well).

It's time to get past the silly ideas that oral sex is not as serious as vaginal and anal sex. We're not little teens trying to justify how what we're doing is not sex. Just because you may not consider oral sex to be "real" sex doesn't mean that you aren't just as much at risk. Not to say that my opinion has been changed – I still do not consider going down on a guy to be sex, but I no longer look at it as the "safe" alternative to sex. So whatever your definition of sex is, just make sure that you do it safely, because there is nothing worse than having to make that phone call explaining that you now have an STD because someone went down on you or vice versa.

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

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Did You Know's came from the book "The Book Of Useless Information" by Noel Botham & The Useless Information Society

It has been calculated that in the last 3,500 years, there have been only 230 years of peace throughout the civilized world.

The Hundred Years' War lasted 116 years.

The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.

The Spanish Inquisition once condemned the entire Netherlands to death for heresy.

Those condemned to death by the ace in medieval and Renaissance England were obligated to tip their executioner to ensure that he would complete the job in one blow.

In some executions, notably that of Mary, Queen of Scots, it took 15 whacks of the blade before the head was severed.

To strengthen the Damascus sword, the blade was plunged into a slave.

Oliver Cromwell was hanged and decapitated two years after his death.

Close to 700,000 land mines were dug up from the banks of the Suez Canal after the 1973 war between Egypt and Israel.

The Nobel Prize was first awarded in 1901. It resulted from a late change in the will of Alfred Nobel, who did not want to be remembered after his death as a propagator of violence – he invented dynamite.

Czar Paul I banished soldiers to Siberia for matching out of step.

More than half a million people died as a result of the Spanish influenza epidemic.

In the 19th century, the British Navy attempted to dispel the superstition that Friday was an unlucky day to embark on a ship. The keel of a new ship was laid on a Friday; she was named HMS Friday, commanded by a Captain Friday and finally went to sea on a Friday. Neither the ship nor her crew was ever heard of again.

Before the 1800s, there were no separately designed shoes for right and left feet.

Any Russian man who wore a beard was required to pay a special tax during the time of Peter the Great.

Children in the Chinook Indian tribe were strapped between boards from head to toe so they would have fashionably flat skulls.

Evidence of shoemaking exists as early as 10000 B.C.

In 1778, fashionable women of Paris never went out in blustery weather without a lightning rod attached to their hats.

In the marriage ceremony of the ancient Inca Indians of Peru, the couple was considered officially wed when they took off their sandals and handed them to each other.

Olive oil was used for washing the body in the ancient Mediterranean world.

Pirates though having an earring would improve their eyesight.

Walsh mercenary bowmen in the medieval period only wore one shoe at a time.

In Ethiopia, both males and females of the Surma tribes shave their heads as a mark of beauty.

In Cleveland, OH it is illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.

FEATURES

A6

Thursday, 2.18.10

features@theeastcarolinian.com

Best selling Shakespearean author comes to campus

Chris Thomas
STAFF WRITER

It isn't often that a respected expert on Shakespearean literature comes to our university, and it's even more rare when a bestselling author takes time out of her busy schedule to talk to a group of students.

However, Pirate Nation is being treated tonight with a speech by New York Times bestselling author Eloisa James at Joyner Library. The event is sponsored by the English Department, the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and Joyner Library. The main catalyst for this event, though, is the relatively new English Club, the leader of which is Dr. Marianne Montgomery, a fourth year English professor at ECU and a University of Virginia graduate. She is the academic adviser and one of the charter members of a group that was founded and thrives upon the written word.

"Students majoring in English or taking English courses were interested in having an open-membership, no-dues club," said Montgomery. "The topics of our meetings vary, but they include readings, discussions of favorite and least books, film discussions, resume workshops and course previews."

According to Montgomery, the event is a must-attend, if for nothing else but to hear about the author's life.

"She's an interesting person," said Montgomery. "When she's not writing historical romances, she's a Shakespeare professor at Fordham University ... She has an exciting double life because



Sponsored by the English Department, Joyner Library, and The Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, New York Times bestselling author Eloisa James will be visiting ECU Thursday night.

she's a Shakespeare professor and a bestselling author."

This double life as well as other interesting topics will no doubt be a part of James' discussion on Thursday night in a lecture called "Shakespeare

in Love: The Renaissance to the Romance," appropriately enough since James' romance novels usually take place in the days of Shakespeare and Bacon.

The members of the English Club have been interested

in bringing in a speaker like James for some time to talk about novels you more than likely weren't going to find on academic reading lists. Though members of the club, including Montgomery, are fans of The Bard, they wanted to have an author that writes for a more modern following.

"The English club students were interested in bringing an author that deals in genre fiction," said Montgomery. "I'm a

graduate of both Oxford University and Yale and currently heads the Creative Writing Department at Fordham in New York City. James, in her academic pursuits, has been a globetrotter, but even after she received her PhD and landed her job, she's still traveling to places some can only dream of.

"We're actually very fortunate to have Dr. James come to ECU since she is currently on sabbatical in Paris doing research and writing an academic book," said Montgomery.

In Montgomery's opinion, having an author as critically acclaimed and academically accredited as Eloisa James can only do the students and staff of ECU good and encourages everyone to come to the event.

"It's a neat opportunity to meet a successful writer, and it will build interest among students to read for pleasure as well as for their courses," said Montgomery. "Having successful writers can only be good for students ... it's a great opportunity for students to experience some good cultural enrichment."

Furthermore, it's in Montgomery's opinion that in order for a university to thrive at all, there must be constant intellectual stimulation and growth, even if the cost can be a bit stifling.

"It's a challenge as far as the state budget goes. It's a challenge to bring writers to ECU, but there's a need for a university for a vibrant intellectual environment," said Montgomery.

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

Pirates encouraged to attend career fair

Heather Dinwiddie
STAFF WRITER

With the ECU career fair just around the corner on Feb. 23, students are strongly encouraged to attend the event that will be held at the Greenville Convention Center.

"We really want students to maximize the opportunity to go to the career fair and learn about employers, learn about industries and companies and to network," said Lindsey Bradsher, the assistant director of Employer Relations at the Career Center. "We want students to establish relationships with employers. We want them to dress professionally and speak professionally with employers."

While Bradsher hopes students attend the career fair to broaden their professional networks, she and her colleagues at the Career Center estimate that there will be around 2,500 students at this spring's fair. As of Friday's employer attendance list, 79 major employers are expected to be at the fair and

57 employers will be present at the Education Fair. The number could increase between now and Feb. 23.

With many companies coming to Greenville, Bradsher thinks students should make every effort to attend the career fair.

"The fair offers you an interpersonal interaction that you can't get online," said Bradsher. "By going to the fair, you are expanding your professional network that will increase your chances of finding that perfect job for you." Bradsher also encourages students to put their best foot forward and get out of the student mentality. Students should come prepared with a resume, writing utensils and a notepad.

Bradsher also has some advice for students who may be intimidated by meeting employers at the fair.

"You want to have confidence. Don't just settle," said Bradsher. "Approach the employer in a way that exhibits professional interaction. Establish conversation and keep it

going but watch the time. Get a business card and follow up with a thank you note."

According to Bradsher, students should also seriously consider how their personality fits into the decision-making process when it comes to choosing companies.

"You really need to think about your values, where you really want to live," said Bradsher. "Think about what makes you happy in your work and life balance. Think about who you are as a person and if the job is going to complement your personality."

Bradsher also suggests that students should use the free job database provided by the Career Center called Pirate Jobs. With this database, companies call in and request workers for certain positions. The Career Center is also on Facebook and Twitter.

Along with Pirate Jobs, Facebook and Twitter, there is another way students can expose themselves to job opportunities.

"Use your network, because 80 percent of jobs are obtained through someone you know,"

said Bradsher.

No matter how students are able to find job opportunities, Bradsher wants students to make the best of what is offered to them.

"We want students to really enjoy the opportunity to go to the fair," said Bradsher. "Anything is possible in setting your professional goals. We want them to be happy and use the skills they learned while at ECU."

Nina Rose, a senior public relations and journalism major, thinks that the career fair will open more doors for her career.

"I hope to meet people that will help me to further my career, hopefully businesses that are communication related," said Rose. "I've been to the career fair before and I think it's a really good experience. I just like to meet people and I think the fair helps you learn about yourself and what you'd like to do in future endeavors."

Rose, like Bradsher, thinks the career fair allows students to tailor their job hunt to their personal needs.

"It's an excellent opportu-

nity for networking and to gain experience in the process of meeting the employer and learning the type of profession that would benefit you," said Rose. "It teaches you skills on how to be professional and confident."

While Rose prepares for her trip to the career fair, even if the companies are not communication related, she hopes they need a communication specialist in their company.

According to Rose, the career fair can also provide a lesson for students.

"It teaches you to be confident. It's nerve-racking when you're graduating and trying to find a job."

For more tips on professionalism, Bradsher suggests visiting www.jobweb.com/studentarticles.aspx?id=762 and jobsearch.about.com/od/jobfairs/a/jobfairs.htm.

The career fair will be held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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

PIRATE EATS

RJ's gives another name to southern barbecue

★★★★☆
Ethan Anderson
STAFF WRITER

One of my friends has the idea that Cookout's barbecue plate is the tastiest thing in fast food he's ever eaten. I must confess, their food is decent, but it pales in comparison to the home-style southern food at RJ's Chicken & Barbecue on 2518 South Memorial Drive.

Nothing beats their freshly cut barbecue, crispy fried chicken and their various selection of seafood. RJ's stays open Monday through Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. At first glance, RJ's looks like your typical small town restaurant. However, when you walk inside, you'll notice their appreciation of the country style setting. There is ample seating and the décor of the restaurant adds to the dining experience.

All plates come with a choice of two vegetables and hushpuppies or cornbread. Plates also come in sizes of small and large. RJ's specializes

in their pork barbecue, turkey barbecue and fried pork chops. I feel as if Greenville lacks a large selection of seafood, but RJ's actually has exceptional seafood. If you are a fan of fried oysters or fried shrimp, you need to put RJ's to the test.

Their dinner menu and list of entrées doesn't end there. Anyone can find something to appeal to their taste when you have things to choose from like hamburger steak, chicken and pastry, meatloaf, turkey wings and more.

If you're like me and you can't decide what looks the best, get the buffet. You will only spend a little over \$9 and you can have it all. You can truly gorge on the most incredible all-you-can-eat buffet.

If you are the type to eat smaller portions and perhaps take home leftovers, then maybe you should try out their daily specials. Each special comes with two vegetables and hushpuppies or cornbread. Expect to pay around \$6-7 unless you come on Friday. Friday's special is chitterlings; more commonly pronounced chit'lins. If you are



RJ's Chicken and Barbecue located off of Memorial Dr. is a delicious place to get local soul food.

interested in a true "country food" experience, I encourage you to try this dish.

RJ's also has great deals for young children and feeding large groups of people. There is a family-sized special, which comes with a pound of bar-

becue, a whole chicken, three pints of vegetables, two dozen hushpuppies and a gallon of tea for \$22. RJ's Chicken & Barbecue will also cater large events.

Overall, RJ's is a nice place to eat. There are some really good deals on great homemade

southern food and the atmosphere has a very country mom and pop feel to it. For more information, call 252-758-9991.

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



Staff Reports

Women's hoops to hold third annual Walk for Women

Join the ECU women's basketball team in a 1.5-mile walk to support breast cancer awareness. The third-annual Walk For Women, part of ECU's "Pink Zone" Initiative, will take place Saturday, Feb. 20.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at Gate 1 of Minges Coliseum and breakfast will be provided.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) began the WBCA Pink Zone, formerly known as "Think Pink," in 2007 as an initiative to raise breast cancer awareness in women's basketball, on campuses and in communities.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund in memory of ECU Alumna and late N.C. State head women's basketball coach Kay Yow. The organization is committed to being a part of finding an answer in the fight against women's cancers through raising money for scientific research, assisting the underserved and unifying people for a common cause.

The Lady Pirates' contest against Tulsa at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21, will serve as part of the "Pink Zone" week. Fans who participate in the Walk For Women will receive a free ticket to the baseball game against Virginia at 1 p.m. Saturday as well as the women's basketball tilt Sunday.

For more information on the Walk For Women, or to register for the event, download and fill out the registration form located on the ECU athletics website or contact the athletic Marketing Department at (252) 737-2520.

Roller in running for Lowe's Senior CLASS Award

ECU senior designated hitter/ first baseman Kyle Roller has been selected as one of 30 candidates for the 2010 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award for baseball, presented annually to an NCAA Division I student-athlete in nine sports.

Based on criteria focusing on the "Four C's" of classroom, character, community and competition, the award winners will be selected by a national balloting of head baseball coaches, national media and college baseball fans.

Lowe's, an official Corporate Partner of the NCAA, will announce the Senior CLASS Award winner at the NCAA College World Series in June.

An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School, the Lowe's Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

Roller, a 2009 first-team All-America selection by the America Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and Ping!Baseball, batted .366 (86-for-256) with 16 home runs and 75 RBI last season. He ranked among the national leaders in hit by pitches (fourth), RBI (23rd), total bases (79th), home runs (80th) and hits (98th) after earning first-team All-Conference USA and NCAA Greenville Regional All-Tournament honors.

No. 11 ECU welcomes No. 2 Virginia for season-opening series this weekend at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

Michael Perry
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It has long been clichéd that to be the best, you have to beat the best and ECU baseball head coach Billy Godwin has bought into that philosophy whole-heartedly as his team opens the season at home Friday for a three-game series against No. 2 ranked Virginia.

The matchup between the No. 11 Pirates and the No. 2 Cavaliers has gained national attention as both teams provide the complete package of offensive firepower and sound pitching.

ECU holds a slight margin of 18-16 in the overall series, but UVA will prove to be an appropriate early season test to show the Pirates what it takes to reach the College World Series.

"One thing I think our kids deserve is to put them on a national stage," Godwin said of his team. "It's a great challenge but we're giving them a great opportunity to do some special things."

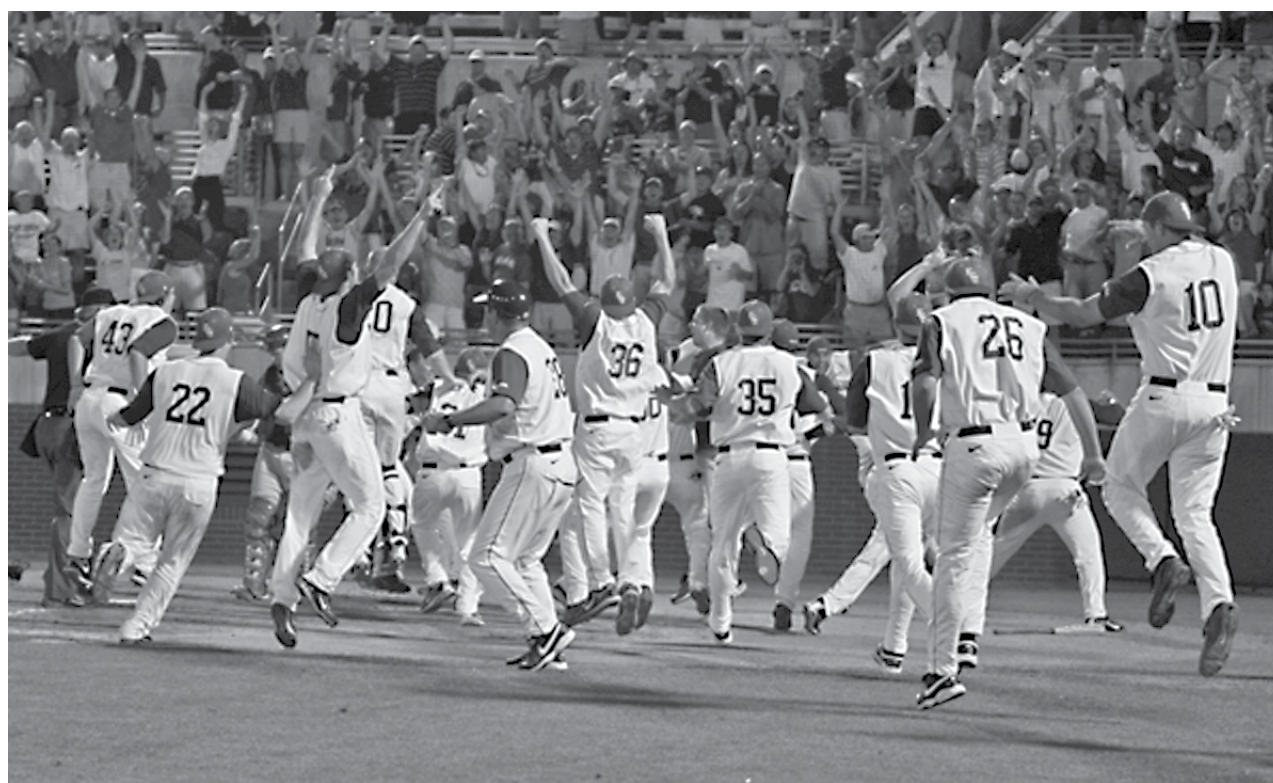
Led by six-year head coach Brian O'Connor, Virginia will bring an experienced and battle-tested team to Greenville this weekend.

The Cavs (49-15-1, last season) are coming off a historical season as they made their first College World Series appearance in 2009, as well as winning both a regional and a super regional on the road, not to mention clinching the ACC Championship.

UVA returns 23 of its 29 letter winners from 2009, including Baseball America and Rivals.com All-American selections junior Jarrett Parker and sophomore Danny Hultzen.

Parker, a centerfielder, played in all 65 games for Virginia last season, finishing up with a .355 season batting average with 16 homers and 65 RBI. He set the program's single season record in runs (75), hits (94) and total bases (176).

Hultzen, a jack-of-all-



The ECU baseball team celebrates winning the Greenville Regional last season after defeating South Carolina in extra innings.

trades, worked the mound while also seeing time in leftfield, first base and designated hitter. The 2009 ACC Freshman of the Year recorded a 9-1 record with a 2.17 ERA and 107 strikeouts.

The young lefty is likely to be paired up with ECU junior right-hander Seth Maness as the Friday starter.

Virginia will also employ two junior right-handers this weekend, Robert Morey and Tyler Wilson.

ECU designated hitter and first basemen Kyle Roller testified for the ability of newly appointed weekend starter Morey.

"Robert Morey played with me up in Bourne. He's a great guy, great athlete and a good pitcher," Roller said, referring to his summer stint with the Cape Cod Summer League Bourne Braves. "He lays it on the line and he's going to challenge us."

The closing relief duties for the Cavs will belong to Kevin Arico, who posted 11 saves last season, a mark matched by the Pirates' own closer Seth Simmons.

At the plate last season, UVA finished up with a .327 team batting average with Parker and

junior right fielder Dan Grovatt leading the way for the Cavaliers with the sticks.

With the return of virtually the whole roster and the addition of a top 10 recruiting class Virginia sits pretty to be a return contender to the big dance.

The Pirates fell two games short of their CWS debut at the hands of North Carolina, but they also had a great 2009 season with a 46-20 overall record and a home regional win.

ECU brings a balanced team of both younger and older players with talent all around; most notable is the Pirates' deeper pitching staff.

On defense, ECU will look to fill the place of its three graduated infielders this season, but Godwin commented that this team has options at each position, with each lineup on a match-by-matchup basis.

"We're going to be able to match up a little bit, different than we have in the past," Godwin said. "Whoever seizes the moment, takes their window of opportunity, will stay in there."

Godwin mentioned Austin Homan and Cam Freeman as players who could be seen in the infield or outfield but will

definitely be included in the batting lineup.

Freshman Bryan Bass will make his collegiate debut at second base, something that has comforted some of Godwin's early concerns filling the middle infield.

"To see the development of Bryan Bass and also Cam Freeman, it's really encouraging," Godwin said. "He's (Bass) a throwback; he comes out here and plays with energy."

Outfielders Trent Whitehead and Devin Harris, as well as shortstop Dustin Harrington, seem to be the only sure thing on the field for ECU.

Whoever is penciled in this weekend for the Pirates will provide a potent offensive ability with the likes of Roller, Harris and Harrington making up the heart of the order.

Harris played the role of a surprise clutch hitter last year, but this season he will be an obvious target of opposing pitchers.

"Coach and I talked about it; I'm not going to sneak up on anybody," Harris said. "Guys are going to come after me and I'm looking forward to it."

On the mound, Maness, Kevin Brandt and Brad Mincey

will take on this weekend task of thwarting the Cavs' hitting squad.

Maness talked about what an honor it was for him and his team to finally jump into this season.

"It's awesome, but it's a big challenge really," Maness said. "I think it's a big compliment to our program and where we've come from to play a topnotch team like Virginia."

One thing ECU has stressed during its preseason preparation is to prepare to play at the peak of their ability rather than worrying about who they will be playing.

"Our team looks good," Harris said. "We need to go out there and play our game and not worry about who we're playing and just relax."

This first matchup will say a lot about both programs and is sure to provide some good opening action.

The Pirates and the Cavs are set to take to Lewis Field at Clark-LeClair Stadium at 3 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

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

Harris spurns the pros in order to fulfill team goal

Carlos Olivera
STAFF WRITER

Setting aside life-long dreams of playing professional baseball and returning to school is not only a tough decision but also a risky one, and it is something that ECU right fielder Devin Harris knows a little something about.

Harris was drafted in the eighth round by the Baltimore Orioles in last year's Major League Baseball draft but decided to return to school to try and fulfill another dream.

"This program has never been to Omaha (College World Series) and I thought it would be really fun and exciting to try and get there this season," Harris said.

Harris is risking injury and perhaps his entire career to return to ECU for another season.

A recent example would be Oklahoma's Heisman-winning quarterback Sam Bradford, who returned to school last season despite being a highly touted NFL prospect and was injured in the first game of the season for the majority of the Sooners' season.

"It was a very hard deci-

sion to come back because I'm turning down my dreams and a lot of money, but I had a lot of team goals that I wanted to accomplish," Harris said.

His coach and teammates, however, are extremely excited Harris decided to ultimately return to school.

ECU head coach Billy Godwin especially expressed his excitement.

"I'm glad he decided to come back," said Godwin, who is entering his fifth year at the helm of the Pirates. "He was drafted in a good round, but the situation wasn't right for him and I think he showed a lot of maturity in his decision to return. Plus, he's a force in the middle of our line-up."

Pirates' designated hitter/ first baseman Kyle Roller added, "Devin is just a physical specimen. He's a great outfielder with a great arm, and he's awesome at the plate and him batting behind me adds a lot of protection."

Harris finished last season with 14 homeruns and 48 runs batted in. His biggest hits, however, came in the Greenville Regional against South Carolina.

Stepping up to the plate in the bottom of the ninth

inning, with the Pirates trailing by three runs with two men on, Harris delivered in a way any athlete can only dream of when he crushed an 0-1 pitch over the left field wall for a three run home run to tie the game.

"It was a real special feeling," Harris said. "The guys in front of me did a tremendous job getting on base and giving me the opportunity to make a play"

Harris then stepped up in the bottom of the 10th inning and played hero one more time, singling to center and scoring Roller for the game-winning run.

"Stepping up, Devin had so much confidence I knew he would get the job done," Roller said. "I called he would hit the walk-off but no one believed me."

While Roller might have predicted the game-winning hit, Harris just couldn't believe the situation he was put in during the 10th inning.

"Man, I could never imagine a situation like that. That's something we dream of as kids and to have that opportunity was real special," Harris said.

There's no doubt Harris and the Pirates had a special

season last year, but it's time to focus on this season.

ECU opens up the 2010 campaign against the No. 2 ranked Virginia Cavaliers, who will travel down to Greenville to begin a three-game series beginning on Friday, Feb. 19, at Clark-LeClair Stadium.

Virginia is expected to be one of the best teams in the country this season and Harris knows the opening series will be tough.

"I'm excited to start the season, but Virginia is an outstanding club and will come down here to play," Harris said. "But we'll be prepared, so it should be a good match-up."

Last season ended with ECU falling one step short of the ultimate goal of Omaha in losing to North Carolina in the Chapel Hill Super Regional and only time will tell if the start of a new decade will bring better success.

Or, for that matter, if Harris made the right decision to return to school instead of joining the Orioles' farm system.

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



ECU right fielder Devin Harris steals a South Carolina home run in last season's Greenville Regional.

NASCAR coming to grips with Daytona 500 damped by delays

MCT

Things are fixed quickly in the world of NASCAR. Tires are changed in a matter of seconds. Transmissions can be replaced in minutes. Like the fast cars, speedy repairs are part of the sport's draw.

That allure hit a speed bump Sunday during the 52nd running of the Daytona 500 when a pothole in the track caused signifi-

cant delays. Fans left the track by the thousands during two red-flag cautions that totaled about two hours. The race took 6 hours 19 minutes, start to finish. At homes across the nation, a Valentine's Day afternoon race became a night race. That's never good for TV ratings.

"It was unfortunate for the fans and the people watching on TV that we had to have that big delay," said driver Greg Biffle, whose No. 16 3M Ford finished

third. "Certainly, nobody wants to sit around and wait all the time, but it was nobody's fault. It wasn't neglect or anything like else. It was our cars beating on the racetrack. It can only take so much."

Track technicians filled the pothole with Bondo putty, a substance used to repair the bodies of damaged cars. The race ended at 7:38 p.m. After that, Daytona International Speedway officials went to work to repair the

damaged image of the iconic racetrack. DIS president Robin Braig held a news conference in an attempt to mitigate the media fallout.

"We're the world center of racing," Braig said. "This is the Daytona 500. This is not supposed to happen, and I take full responsibility."

But the damage already was done.

In Monday's Charlotte (N.C.) Observer, columnist

Tom Sorenson described it as the "hole that swallowed NASCAR." An Orlando Sentinel online headline asked, sarcastically: "Has Daytona 500 gone to pothole?"

The hole in the track stole headlines and column inches from an otherwise exciting race to begin the 2010 Sprint Cup Series. Jamie McMurray, driver

NASCAR continued from A7

of the No. 1 Bass Pro Shops/Tracker Boats Chevrolet, won his first Daytona 500 in dramatic fashion, holding off fan favorite Dale Earnhardt Jr. on the final lap.

Daytona International Speedway was last paved in 1978, and the track is scheduled for an asphalt overhaul in 2012, according to officials. During Sunday's race, Earnhardt described the track as "2 1/2 miles of hole." After the race, Earnhardt retreated from his criticism.

"I was joking about it being a hole," he said. "You know, y'all know how I feel about Daytona — it's a special place, but the surface has some pretty big bumps."

NASCAR's most recognizable driver has been outspoken for some time about the condition of Daytona's track. Earnhardt said he suggested several years ago that the course should be resurfaced.

"We'd have it all weathered and ready to go right now," he said Sunday. "It would be in good shape, but it will get there."

Other drivers were less critical Sunday. Juan Pablo Montoya was running in second position when the race was halted for the second time. After a pit stop to change four tires, Montoya never got back to the front of the pack. Still, he congratulated the track for fixing the problem.

"I think the track did an amazing job making sure we could get the track ready, and, for all the fans here, we got the race in," said Montoya, an international racing celebrity. "People think it only happens here, but it happens everywhere."

Although most drivers said the pothole did not affect the racing or their decisions on the track, one crew chief said the hole might have changed the race's outcome. Kevin Harvick's No. 29 Shell/ Pennzoil Chevrolet led a race-best 41 laps. His crew chief, Gil Martin, said the track's conditions caused his team to change its racing strategy. Harvick finished seventh.

"We knew when we were sitting out there leading that they were going to fix the racetrack," Martin said. "There was no way they weren't going to."

"I still hate that it came down to the fact that we had to make some gambling decisions based upon the track, but that's just the way that it played out, and that's all we can do."



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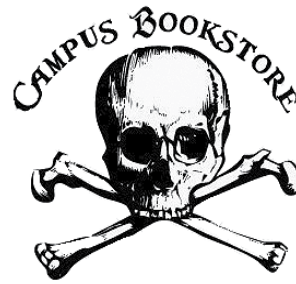
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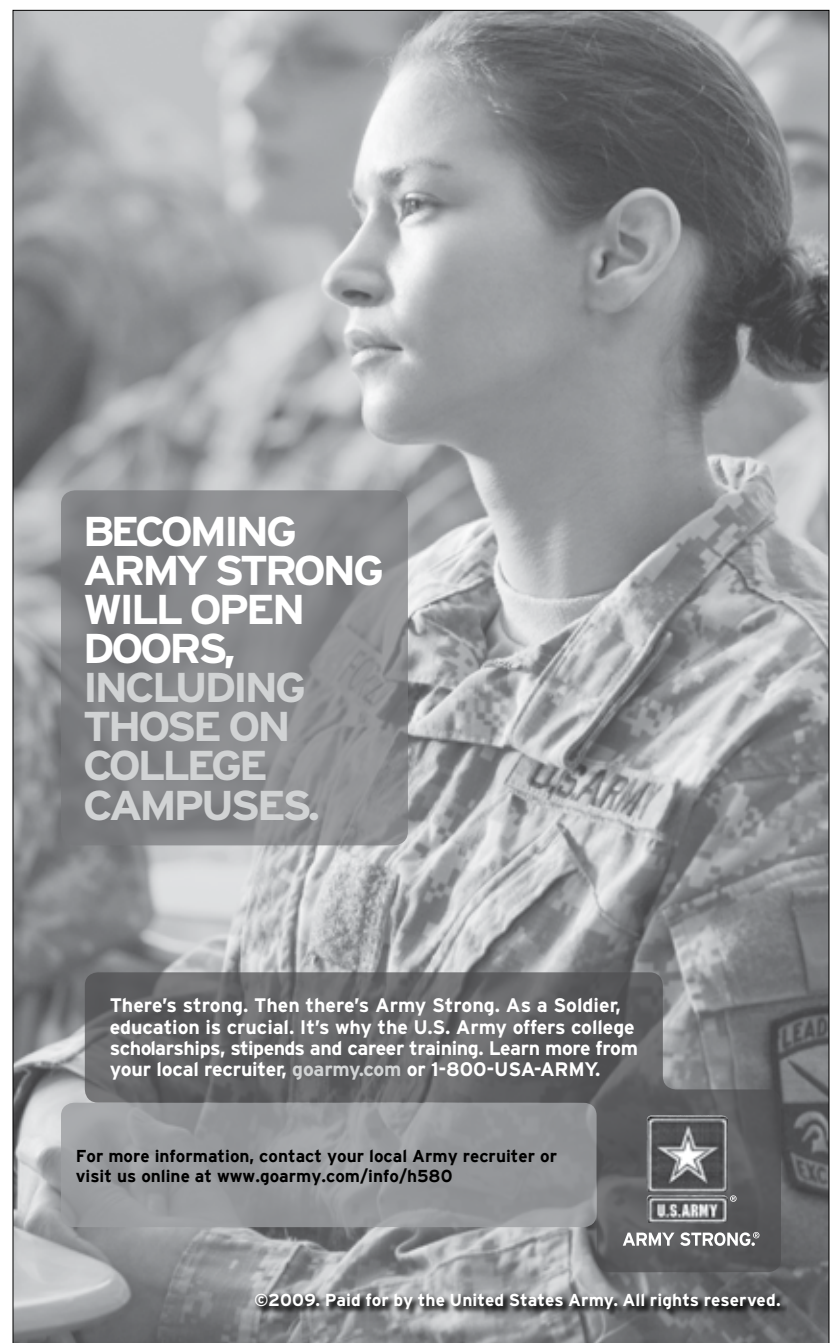
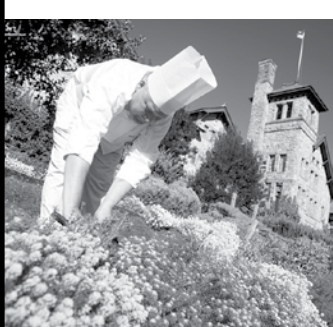
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CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Anthropology Student Organization (ASO) we will be holding a Haiti fundraiser on Thursday, February 18th from 10am-2pm in front of the Flanagan Building. The fundraiser consists of a rice and beans meal that will be available for a few dollars. All proceeds will be donated to charity. For more info, email map1022@ecu.edu

February 20th, Bate Building: The 7th annual TALGS Conference will showcase diverse presentations, workshops, and discussions on linguistics and language teaching by domestic and international students and educators. <http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/eng/talgs/>

Showcase your talent! The Campus Living Diversity Education Team is seeking groups/individuals to showcase their talent at the 3rd Annual Culturefest. If interested, contact Sarah Meiser at meisers@ecu.edu or 252-328-6689.

The ECU chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Management (SAM) is holding a fundraiser/drawing that includes four packages of gift cards to local restaurants amounting between \$210-225. Tickets are priced as 1 for \$1, 7 for \$5, or 15 for \$10. The drawing will be held on February 22nd. The proceeds will directly help SAM members attend the National Case Competition in April. For information on how to participate in the fundraiser/drawing, please contact London Core at lmc0315@ecu.edu

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources is having a public meeting on Monday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1503 of the Carol G. Belk Building about the Capitol Memorial Hearings. The purpose of these public meeting is to address the under-representation of minorities and women. For more information, call (252) 830-6580.

Children of ECU Faculty (active or retired) are invited to apply for the ECURFA Undergraduate Scholarship. The amount of the award for 2010/2011 will be \$1,500 (\$750/semester). The application deadline is April 1, 2010. For application materials and additional information, please contact Vicky Morris at 252-328-9559 or morrisv@ecu.edu



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