

OPINION: Your bromance makes me want to kill myself...why don't y'all try hanging out at HIS apartment?! **A4**

LIFESTYLES: Up and coming clothing line created by local girls comes to ECU. Find out more in Lifestyles. **A5**

SPORTS: Turn over to sports to read about Coach McNeill's plans for the upcoming preseason, and to see which football moments made the top 5. **A8**

BRIEFS

Incoming freshmen bring changes and excitement

Hannah Jackson

THE EAST CAROLINIAN

On Aug. 24, around 4,000 new students will start classes at ECU for the first time.

Currently, most of the new students are enjoying their summers and attending orientation to get a feel for the upcoming year. Applying to college is easier than ever with online and express applications, even though the requirements have not changed much. Colleges typically request the usual high school requirements in addition to SAT scores, a statement of purpose and any extracurricular activities.

The difference this year is that students meeting specific criteria are required to have health insurance before school begins in the fall. ECU's "Waive out or you're in!" plan allows students to waive out of the plan if they already have health insurance. For students without coverage, they are automatically enrolled in the new policy adopted by ECU.

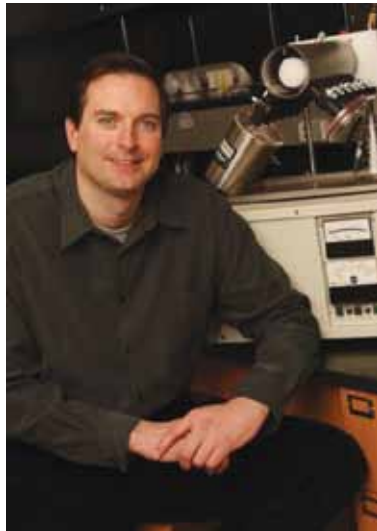
Orientation generates a lot of excitement as well as apprehension. Most incoming students share similar fears.

"I'm scared that my parents will interfere a little too much; they are kind of clingy," said incoming freshman Karin Reed. Being independent is often a big step when making the transition from high school to college.

Another new student, Tiffany Leary, is worried about time management and being on her own. This same independence causes some students to fire up in anticipation for the school year.

Nearly all students who will be attending in the fall are looking forward to the upcoming football season. "ECU has way more spirit and energy than any other college football games I've been to," said Rocsi Moore, a soon to be psychology major. In any case, it is safe to say that all incoming students are all excited to finally become Pirates.

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



Colin Burns in front of the freeze dryer in his lab. Dr. Burns' research could lead to better HIV treatment.

Protein creates possibility for enhanced HIV treatment

Shivani Vyas
STAFF WRITER

Research involving a naturally occurring cellular protein resulted in unexpected findings. Prothymosin-alpha was originally being studied to understand its metal binding properties, but now is known to contain a vast amount of virus-fighting capabilities.

Colin Burns, an associate professor of chemistry at ECU, began this research in 2003. Burns spends much of his time in the lab doing synthetic mythology, which enables him to look at the structure of certain molecules and form hypotheses as to what features might give rise to their functions.

Chris Wilson, a former graduate student, was the first to aid with Burns' research in 2004. By chemically synthesizing amino acids in the lab, Wilson was able to understand how to make prothymosin-alpha.

Wilson tells us that the procedure took patience and effort. "We faced many issues while trying to purify and characterize the protein. It actually took six months to make this protein."

Once the protein was finalized and both scientists' work was published, researchers at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Duke University also

took notice. Researchers were now able to understand how prothymosin-alpha blocked viral replication once the HIV virus entered human cells.

"When we get an HIV infection, it can affect many of our cells, especially our macrophage cells. These cells are a type of white blood cells that alert our immune system when it detects something harmful. However, these cells can be very resistant to anti-retro viral medicine, which means that the medicine can only work on certain cells in our body."

"The work my collaborators did is basically figuring out which part of the protein has very strong anti-HIV activity when applied to certain cells from our immune system. By anti-HIV activity, I mean activity that keeps the HIV virus from replicating. When the virus is able to stay in some cells, reproduction of the virus remains continuous, which is why an HIV infection is very hard to completely wipe out," Burns tells us.

Prothymosin-alpha might open new doors for more effective ways of preventing the replication and spread of HIV in individuals that are already infected. Understanding the function and characteristics of this protein may help scientists

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HIV page A2

The East Carolinian

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

More living with AIDS, fewer deaths

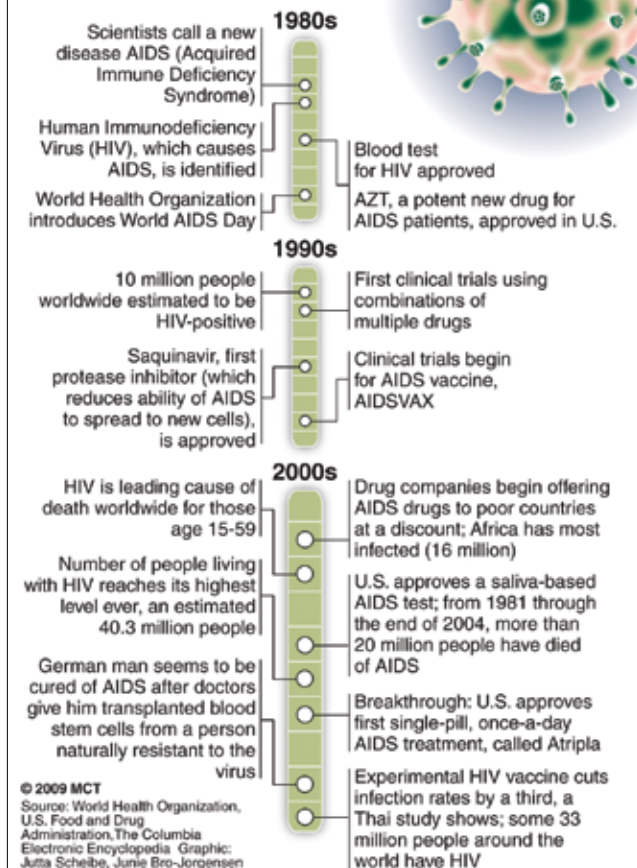
Adults and children estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in 2008:

New statistics

- Total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in 2008: **33.4 million**
- People newly infected with HIV in 2008: **2.7 million**
- AIDS-related deaths in 2008: **2.0 million**
- Death toll has dropped by 10% in the past five years



HIV/AIDS epidemic key events



HIV continued from A1

design an antiviral medication that has a more potent delivery.

"It wasn't easy, but when you work with great people like Colin Burns, it becomes a great experience. It was a frustrating process, but in the end it was very rewarding" Wilson said.

Burns continues to add to his research, while Wilson is no longer involved with the study and currently has a position with Metrics Incorpo-

rated as a senior analytical chemist.

The scientists' findings were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences and their research was funded by the N.C. Biotechnology Center grant, giving the department a total of \$25,000.

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

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I am so ready for you to find out that you will NOT always be the center of attention.

Genesse shaved her Busch! 30 packs are awesome.

The dining halls have removed trays, put out more foam, and now removed straws to "go green". I think you guys should look again... you're using less water, yeah, but WAY more trash. Use more REUSEABLES!

Dear roommate: You're about as useful as a one-legged man in an arse kicking contest.

Love is the answer, but while were waiting sex raises some pretty good questions!

Sorry, but Silly Bandz are for kids.

Dear Roommate: When you come home from work a little piece of me dies inside!

It's sad when your Facebook page consists of more status updates than post from other people! Those 849 friends you have must really like you!

"Hey girl, I've seen you at the hospital" does not work as a pickup line.

Just because you HAVE a car doesn't mean you need to leave EVERY weekend. The weekends are supposed to be fun, at least leave during the week.

I can't believe I resigned a lease with you! This is going to be the longest year of my life!!!

It's great that you don't have summer classes anymore, but why don't you try going to your OWN apartment and being annoying....You actually pay rent there.

I hope you fail your summer classes just so you will fail out, then hopefully I won't have to put up with you another year.

If I have to ask you to turn the TV down one more time I'm going to flip!!

Boyyy! You have been in 3 of my summer classes now and imma need you to see those pretty little smiles I've been flashing you and take a hint!

Thanks to the helpful lady in Parking and Transit office. She really helped me out the other day.

Bring on the cold front!

The World Cup is not a planetary jockstrap



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

"10 Things I Hate About You" is a coming-of-age story about awkward teens during their high school years. Released in 1999, it is now considered a modern classic. Reasons why you should care: it stars Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles, it is alluded to on a semi-regular basis through comedic spoofs and current television series and it is loosely based on Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." Most profoundly, its script is epic. It is insanely well written and delivered by actors who truly embody their characters. One scene in particular depicts Heath Ledger's character having difficulty in understanding what seems like everyone's obsession with the popular Valley girl. In desperation, he speculates that the source of everyone's infatuation is this girl's alleged beer-flavored nipples.

So it is with my inability to understand the American infatuation with the World Cup. Half of us probably didn't know it was about soccer until we saw highlights on ESPN. I accept that it only comes around once every four years. But despite the event's infrequency, Americans by and large don't care about soccer... at all. In fact, the MLS hired the exceptionally hot David Beckham away from Real Madrid back in 2007 as a last ditch effort to infuse American interest in MLS. However, Beckham was so bored with American soccer and the L.A. Galaxy that he didn't even last two years in the states before being "loaned" to Italy's A.C. Milan



ILLUSTRATED BY ADRIAN PARHAMOVICH

even though he still had a few years left on his American contract.

Tangentially, I think marriages would last a LOT longer if we could employ the same contract flexibility. Think about it. Your wife starts nagging again — her shopping allowance isn't high enough, you didn't go straight home from work because you went to a topless bar with the guys, or she hates it when you insist on bedroom experimentation when you try the carnal crisscross or passion propeller. How gratifying would it be to know that you could just broker her out for a few months when such tantrums spark your ire?

All joking aside, Beckham's departure has to speak volumes to the Americans' lack of interest in soccer. If you go to any other country, soccer players are demigods. The fans are literally insane. I flew into Mexico City a few years ago. Having a long layover, I decided to take a cab out to an authentic Mexican

cantina. The streets were packed with people of all shapes and sizes. They were dressed to the nines in all manner of regalia. People adorned national flags as shirts, capes, skirts, bikinis and sarongs. Everyone was laughing, drinking, singing, swaying and generally having a good time. I asked the cabbie what was going on. He said that there was a football match earlier in the day. I exclaimed how seriously these people seemed to take it — to which the cabbie shrugged as he simply replied, "You should see it when we win."

Everyone around the world is fanatical about this sport. Americans aren't. That's fine, but we need to seriously stop acting like we care. Soccer is the religion of the world. Nothing evokes the amount of passion and camaraderie as a couple of people kicking around a ball bespattered with black and white hexagons. For us to feign interest is to commit the profane act of taking what the world regards as sacred and treating

it as mundane pastime until our own American football season starts. I'm sorry Landon Donovan, but we're just not that into you.

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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Independence Day fireworks and festivities found locally

Lynsey Horn
STAFF WRITER

The Fourth of July is quickly approaching and there are celebrations all across the state. Some of the best July 4th events are happening right here in Eastern North Carolina.

Locally, there are events in Greenville, Farmville and Belhaven. All three are community events with classic southern traditions like homemade ice cream, music and of course fireworks. Washington will also be hosting its own show, which will conveniently be held over the downtown waterfront.

For those looking to get out of town, the coastal communities of Eastern North Carolina offer a wide variety of Independence Day celebrations as well. The Carolina Beach Band and The Seaside Band will perform at the Morehead City event at 7 p.m. on Sunday. This fireworks show will begin around 9:15 p.m. from Sugarloaf Island.

For those who like the family fun part of the holiday, the Fourth of July Parade is a favorite old-fashioned tradition in Beaufort. The parade starts at 11 a.m. on the waterfront and there will be free ice cream.

For a more sophisticated and charitable crowd, Coastal Home Gallery and Lake Road Winery in Newport are partnering for an Independence Day celebration to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The event begins at 3 p.m. and there will be live music, live comedy, barbeque and wine tasting. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through the Coastal Home Gallery website.

Emerald Isle is also a popular spot for a red, white and blue getaway. It has a popular annual fireworks show over Bogue Sound at the Chapel by the Sea. The fireworks begin at 9 p.m. Elizabeth Curl has attended the Emerald Isle fireworks event and she hopes to attend another event this year.

"It was my first Fourth of July on the beach and was a great experience. There were lots of people and I hope to be able to do it again," said Curl of the fireworks show.

Atlantic Beach will have their holiday event at The Circle near the beach. Sammy O'Banion and the Nightshift Band perform at 7 p.m. until the fireworks show at 11 p.m. At this event, you can sit with your toes in the sand or even in the water while you watch a festive fireworks show.

Possibly one of the most notable firework displays in the state is Fort Bragg's Concert in the Sky show. According to About.com, "The July 4th Celebration was voted one of the top 20 events in the southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society!" This year's musical headliners are Chevelle and Colt Ford. There will be rides, food, music and the best fireworks in the state.

When looking for a unique experience this Fourth of July, look no further than the borders of your home state.

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

LIFESTYLES

Southern Frock caters to the coastal lifestyle

Two women from Eastern NC make fashion debut

Marlana Sifter
STAFF WRITER

Women's clothing line "Southern Frock" is gracing North Carolina with its spring/summer collection of beach skirts, flirty sundresses and refreshing rompers.

Just their first season since their proverbial jump into the sea of business in November 2009, the two co-owners of the company are taking full advantage of an initial success that seemed impossible.

Amelia Rogers and Emily Newnam, both from Eastern North Carolina, developed the idea for a southern clothing brand while rooming together in Charleston, S.C. A 2007 Meredith graduate with a BA in fashion design, Newnam was working for another clothing company when her good friend Amelia, unable to find a job in the ailing economy, joined her in South Carolina. It was there that their inspiration took hold.

"We figured we should go ahead and do it while we're still young," said Newnam. "We just took a leap of faith, and we're getting a very good response."

After graduating from Wake Forest University in 2006 with a BA in elementary education, Rogers left her employment as a kindergarten teacher in Charlotte to find work in nonprofit just two months before the economic downturn. The call from her friend was enough to convince her to pack her bags and start afresh.

"It was definitely scary at first because neither one of us had done anything like it before," said Rogers. "We're just taking it day by day, one step at a time, and it's been a really great thing so far."

Newnam says that while she had always heard it was suicide to go into business with your best friend, the likes, dislikes and opinions on fashion that she and Rogers share made it possible for a collaboration.

"We trust each other and we're on the same page with the company," said Newnam.

Business began online, where Southern Frock's reputation was built on their website, as well as a Facebook page and a Twitter account, keyword "SouthernDrawwwl." The popularity of their spring/summer 2010 collection spurred on the creation of this year's clothing, and even encouraged local businesses to carry the line.

Southern Frock dress wear is found at Scout & Molly's in North Hills at Raleigh, Iniquities in Cameron Village at Raleigh, in Franklin Street at Chapel Hill, and in Durham, and at Bella's Boutique in Bain-



Emily Newnam, Kristina Cagle and Amelia Rogers of Southern Frock work to create a flawless ensemble.

bridge, Ga.

Trunk shows are another key way that the new business gains exposure. Prospective buyers invite Newnam and Rogers to take a selection of the dresses to a business, home, sorority or university.

Southern Frock encourages interested girls to contact Rogers about a possible trunk show or wardrobe party. Around 20 shows have already been held since April.

Girls can also request more information about becoming Southern Frock representatives for their college or university as part of the "Sundresses and Sisterhood" program. So far, eight southern universities have at least one representative each. These are Appalachian, UNC Wilmington, University of Florida, Ole Miss, Samford University, Auburn University, University of Central Florida, N.C. State University and ECU's own Lauren Armstrong.

Armstrong is responsible for e-mailing

other colleges and universities about the product, visiting local sororities and setting up within ECU's considerable tailgating scene. She is also charged with presenting fashion shows to student life and handling aspects particular to ECU.

Upcoming promotional events for the company include "Charm Night Out" in Rocky Mount on June 29th from 4 to 9 p.m., and the "Ballroom Boutique" in Atlantic Beach at the Coral Bay Club on July 7th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rogers and Newnam also plan to attend the Atlanta wholesaler market this fall, a huge apparel market where companies can meet with buyers of lines.

Newnam, who handles most of the design duties, says that the 2011 line will be significantly larger than either of its



THE EAST CAROLINIAN | DOUG MCKENZIE

This student doesn't sweat exercising in high temperatures by using these simple summer tricks.

Beauty tricks to beat the summer blues

Madonna Messina
STAFF WRITER

Summer is a time for laying out, relaxing with friends and having care-free days... mostly. However, with this intense summer heat, it can be difficult to get through the day without worrying about all of the beauty blunders that come along with the heat and humidity.

Fear no more -- here are a couple of fast fixes to get through the summer and outshine these common beauty blunders that can cause a great deal of headaches and stress. From stringy, dull, lifeless hair to excessive odor-causing sweat, these tips will be helpful throughout the scorching summer days.

Has summer heat got you excessively sweating, and a bit smelly? Be sure to put on a strong antiperspirant or deodorant before heading out into the summer heat. "I use secret clinical strength," said sophomore English education major Kaileigh Hubbard. "And I put it on before bed and again in the morning." This easy trick gives deodorant time to begin working before sweating begins.

Body odor actually occurs when sweat comes into contact with bacteria on the skin. To limit body odors, opt for using an antibacterial body scrub.

BEAUTY continued from A5

In order to prevent sweat stains, use an antiperspirant that contains an aluminum-chloride. As for the sweat coming from less common places, try using an aerosol can of deodorant, like Secret Aerosol, which can simply be sprayed on the area causing problems.

Has shaving every day left your skin irritated and dry? Summertime calls for sundresses, skirts and shorts... all of which reveal a little extra skin. But shaving daily can cause irritation and dryness, so be sure to use a moisturizing shaving cream and then a moisturizing lotion after every shave. "I use Skintimate shaving cream and I use Bath and Body Works sensual amber fragrance body lotion [afterwards] because it smells good and makes my legs super soft," said junior interior design major Elizabeth Crowe.

To prevent underarm stubble, stretch arms back as far as possible and shave from the bottom up. The tighter the surface, the closer the shave, which aids in preventing irritation bumps. Also be sure to use a good razor as well as replace the razor or razor head every 10-15 shaves. "I use a Venus Envy Razor," said Crowe. "It has a really good conditioning strip."


Wasting time straightening your hair, when the heat and humidity ruins it? Try putting away the hot iron and

blow drier this season and embrace the elements offered in the summer months. Let hair dry naturally, and maybe add some mouse to aid in creating natural beach waves. "In the summer, I usually don't blow-dry my hair," claims Hubbard. "I just let it air dry and put Aussie "scrunch" spray in my hair and let it dry into beach waves." Not only is it an easy style, there is no worrying about hair falling flat or losing its pin-straightness, and it's also less damaging than using heat products on hair every day.

For those determined to have pin-straight hair all summer, prevent it from looking limp by using a volumizing mousse. Use about a golf ball-sized amount and apply it to roots and work the mouse throughout the hair. Blow-dry hair afterwards with the head flipped over. If hair does fall flat midday, spritz it with some water to reactive the mousse.

So if summer is causing the beauty blues, just follow these few steps to amp up your style and summer confidence. There's no reason to feel down during summer because you can't keep your hair straight or legs smooth. Summer is about the fun in the sun and having a great time with friends, so let loose!

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



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FROCK continued from A5

predecessors.

"We have a lot in store for the spring. The solid colors are always good with jewelry and dressing up for dinner, or for going out to the beach, or on a boat. They're very transitional and versatile for dressing up or down. We will also include our current dresses, but in different colors and fabrics," Newnam said.

When asked if opening a business had been harder than she had expected it to be, Newnam said, "It was a dream of mine, and because it was my major in college, it was always something I wanted to have a job doing. I enjoy it so much it has never seemed like work to me. My dad was an art major at ECU in the '70s and I really got my creative edge from him."

She added, "Southern Frock hopes to be around for a long time. It's representa-

tive of our style personality, and is a direct complement to me to have women like what we do."

Rogers, who takes care of most of the marketing and business aspects, sees their coastal aesthetic as a style worth continuing.

"We didn't know what to expect honestly. Emily and I continue to be humbled by the amazing response we continue to receive. We're thankful for the line taking off the way it has, and the way people are responding to it"

Reaching out to the girl on the go, Southern Frock hopes to open store fronts in the future, and stands out as a great success story in an economy poisonous for small business owners.

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



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ECU golf represented at the 2010 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship

ECU rising junior David Watkins qualified for the 2010 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championships with a three-under-par 169 (71-68) at the Highland Hills Golf Club in Southern Pines, N.C., Tuesday. Watkins is one of three golfers from the sectional-qualifying site to advance.

The U.S. Amateur Public Links Championships will be held July 12 to 17 at Bryan Park Golf Course in Greensboro, N.C.

Watkins earned a second-place finish at Highland Hills after earning 10th place at the 2010 North Carolina Amateur Championships, which were held June 17 to 20 at the Wilson Country Club. He was one of several Pirates to compete for the honor of the North Carolina's best amateur golfer.

ECU's rising sophomore Adam Stephenson finished just four strokes out of first and tied for third with a seven-under-par 273. Stephenson's final round total of 66 was the second-lowest score of the round. He birdied four holes on the front nine of the Wilson Country Club before shooting par or better of eight of the final nine holes to finish just four strokes out of first place.

The Pirates' Harold Varner tied for 10th at the N.C. Amateur with a two-under 278. Zach Edmondson, a rising sophomore, finished four strokes behind Varner in 18th at two-over.

Football sales top 20,000

The ECU Athletics Department is enjoying another record-breaking season ticket sales pace that has surpassed the 20,000 mark for the fourth consecutive year, setting the stage for possible new attendance standards at an expanded Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium this fall.

With a 7,000-seat end zone construction project nearing a close, which will increase the stadium's capacity to 50,000 in time for the 2010 campaign, the Pirates will be in a position to push their turnstile count to unmatched levels under first-year head coach Ruffin McNeill.

ECU has established program attendance standards its last three seasons. The Pirates drew a total of 249,219 fans in 2007 before setting back-to-back regular season average records with league-best 42,016 and 43,191 clips in 2008 and 2009, respectively. The increases have been a reflection of season ticket success at the box office in the last four years, following a previous record of 16,258 in 2006 with a 22,000 sell-out number in 2007, a 21,160 total in 2008 and a 21,293 figure last fall.

ECU enjoyed sell-out crowds for all six regular season contests a year ago, standing 14th among all FBS programs with a 100.44 capacity percentage.

Coach McNeill ready to kick off the 2010 season

Michael Perry
SPORTS EDITOR

If there is anybody who is ready for August to roll around, it's first year head football coach Ruffin McNeill.

McNeill, who has enjoyed his summer thus far, is poised to lead the Pirates into a new era and a new season. Unfortunately for the eager head coach, NCAA regulations require little to no contact between coaches and players until Aug. 5.

Despite this mandatory separation, the ECU football team has been hard at work during voluntary off-season workouts. The players will use the remaining month of summer to condition themselves for the 2010 season.

"I think and believe they are working extremely hard," McNeill said. "I know the participation and enthusiasm has been fantastic."

Though training is essential for all high-level athletes, Coach McNeill expressed that his program would be driven by an emphasis on conditioning.

"If you know me, the key thing is the conditioning," McNeill said. "Conditioning is what I believe in and what I was raised on as a player and as a coach."

Though McNeill is excited for what is up ahead, he also shared some thoughts on the success of spring practice and his first on-field interactions with the Pirates.

"I was very pleased with the progress of the football team and was very pleased with the way the young men took advantage of the opportunity," McNeill said. "We were able to install our offensive, defensive and special teams schemes and we were able to begin establishing our brand, our personality as a football team."

McNeill puts a lot of weight into how his football team will represent ECU as a whole and also strives for his band of Pirates to be fundamentally sound.

With new coaches, players and an overhauled play calling system, any program would expect some challenging times ahead, but Coach McNeill is not worried with this early building stage.

"Probably the challenge will be some of the guys who may not have played as much will now have an opportunity to let them grow up," McNeill said. "When you have transition, there is always an adjustment time, and my experience tells me there's got to be some patience there."

The big question that will arise as the players hit the practice field in August is who will arise as the new leader of the offense. ECU officially has eight quarterbacks listed with a few front-runners, but McNeill stressed that every man will get his chance.

"There is no entitlement here. You're job is earned every day and your



Head football coach Ruffin McNeill addressing players during spring practice. McNeill is eager to hit the field once again on Aug. 5.

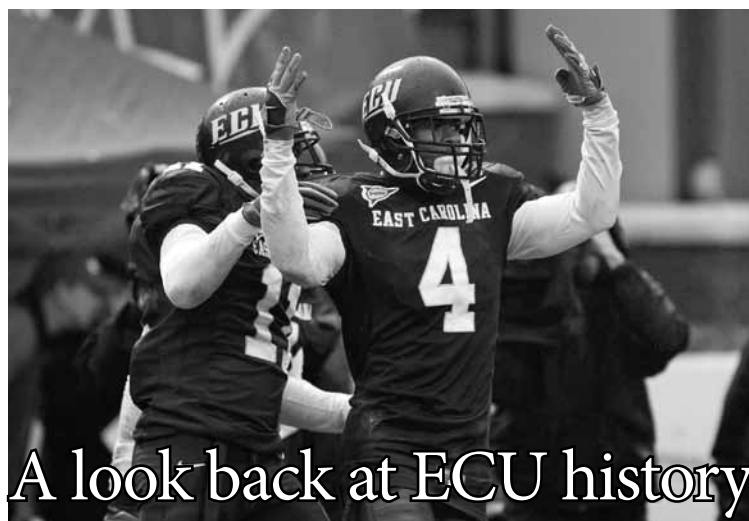
job is earned every year," McNeill said. "The bottom line is performance. The quarterback position is no different. The most consistent guy will win the job."

With that said, McNeill mentioned Brad Wornick, Rio Johnson and Josh Jordan as all having strong performance in spring practice. The

three signal callers are the expected top picks, but McNeill is very adamant about providing each player his chance.

Away from the field, McNeill is equally excited to connect with his players, something he expresses as his

MCNEILL continued on A9



A look back at ECU history

Van Eskridge celebrating after he snagged the game winning end zone interception from Houston's Case Keenum in the final minute of the 2009 C-USA Championship. This is one of the many moments that have shaped Pirate football history.

Pirates' top five football moments

5. Lee's block punt vs. VT:

With the Pirates trailing the Hokies in the Bank of America Stadium, one player needed to make a big play to turn the tides for the Pirates. The Hokies, a heavy favorite on this hot Saturday afternoon in Charlotte, clung

to a 22-20 lead and were about to punt the ball to the Pirates with just 1:52 left in regulation. Instead of Virginia Tech punter Brett Bowden punting the ball away to the Pirates return man, the most unlikely hero made the big play Holtz's team was looking for. Wide receiver T.J. Lee broke through the Virginia Tech line and blocked Bowden's punt attempt then scooped the football up and scampered 27 yards into the end zone, giving the Pirates the victory. This one block started a run in the 2008 season that escalated the Pirates back into the national spotlight.

4. Van lifts Pirates to title:

After getting the monkey off their back in the 2008 season, the Pirate football team was not satisfied with winning just one conference title. The team had their eyes set on proving once again that they were the top dog in Conference USA. Having earned a spot in the conference championship game with a tight win over rival Southern Miss, the Pirates were set to face off with Houston in the conference championship, held in Greenville, for the first time in C-USA history.

The Pirates took advantage of the home crowd slowing down another

high-powered offense. The moment that solidified the game for the home team was the miraculous protection of the defense. Trailing by six with less than two minutes, the Cougars were driving at will. On the ECU 34-yard line, Houston quarterback Case Keenum lobbed up a pass in the left-back corner of the end zone where defensive back Travis Simmons tipped the ball away from James Cleveland and into the hands of teammate Van Eskridge. Eskridge grappled the ball, got two feet down then stepped out of the end zone in celebration of the Pirates' second-straight conference title.

3. C-USA Championship in 2008:

One thing haunted the Pirates in the middle years of the Skip Holtz era — a conference championship. Holtz's team's had come so close to winning the east division in previous years but came up just short. 2008 would prove to be a different year for the Pirates, though. Riding the momentum from their electric start of the season, ECU won the east division. The Pirates faced

HISTORY continued on A10

Addison Harvey
STAFF WRITER

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East Carolina University
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

MCNEILL continued from A8

strong suit.

"I get next to the kids and get close to them. They know I'm going to love them hard but I'm going to push them hard," McNeill said. "I feel that our relationship has been great. They know that I am honest, to the blunt side, but also they know that I care about them as people and I care about their success."

The ECU football program will commence pre-season practice Aug. 5, exactly one month before the kickoff of the first game against Tulsa, the 2010 season and a new chapter in Pirate history.

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

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HISTORY continued from A8

Pirates' ability to slow down the Golden Hurricane's high-powered offense, but the Pirates knew this was their year. From the opening whistle, ECU dominated the game, forcing five David Johnson interceptions in route to the Pirates' first conference championship in football in over 30 years.

2. Rally in Raleigh:

1999 was a year of hardship and pain for the entire community in Eastern North Carolina. Hurricanes Floyd and Dennis had come and gone and created one of the biggest floods in American history. Destroying homes and business, taking peoples lives and separating families. However, one thing continued in Eastern North Carolina and that was ECU football. Having to play a home game at Carter-Finley Stadium as a result of the hurricane and flood, the Pirates took on powerhouse Miami in Raleigh. Trailing 23-3 in the third quarter, the Pirates mounted one of the most unlikely comebacks in team history, which would later win the school an ESPY award. Having narrowed the Hurricanes lead to 23-20, quarterback David Garrard connected with Keith Stokes on a 26-yard touchdown pass, giving the Pirates their first

and final lead of the game. A victory that brought together a state and a fan base that had been through so much but came together to support their school.

1. Peach Bowl:

One game, season and moment that will always stand out to Pirate fans occurred in the 1991-1992 season. ECU, at the time an independent, finished the season ranked 11th in the AP poll with a 10-1 record, including wins over South Carolina, Syracuse and Pittsburgh. The Pirates were selected to participate in the Peach Bowl versus hated rival N.C. State. Trailing by 17 in the fourth quarter, legendary quarterback Jeff Blake turned the Pirates' fate around on the back of a saying Pirate fans created "We Believe." With the lead narrowed to 34-30 with 1:32 remaining in the game, Blake connected with Luke Fisher on a touchdown pass that will go down in Pirate lore forever giving ECU the 37-34 win. The Pirates finished the season ranked ninth, which still stands as the highest rank an ECU football team has ever received.

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

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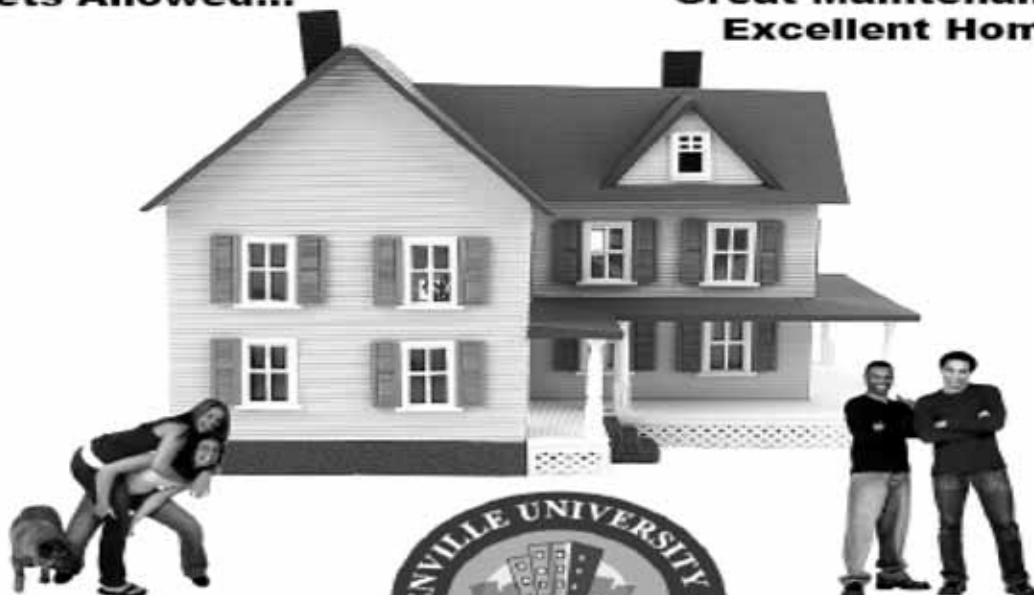
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