

INSIDE

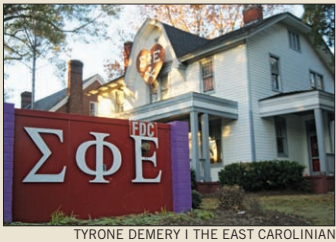
OPINION: I probably gained 10 pounds over Thanksgiving weekend. It's okay though because it's hooded sweatshirt weather, not swimsuit weather. **A4**

LIFESTYLES: ECU's campus mourns the loss of two students. Read about their inspirational lives and the impact they made on their friends and family in Lifestyles. **A5**

SPORTS: Turn to sports to find out if ECU beat out Charlotte on the hardwood and to read up on the Pirates acceptance to the Military Bowl. **A7**

BRIEFS

Charter revoked for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Staff Report

Sigma Phi Epsilon has removed the charter of its North Carolina Kappa Chapter at ECU. Sigma Phi Epsilon, whose mission is to "build balanced men," said in a news release, "The decision is based on the failure of the members to live up to the expectations of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the university."

The fraternity's executive director, Brian Warren, said, "The (North Carolina Kappa Chapter at ECU's) actions weren't safe and put their members in harms way."

The ECU Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter was placed on probation in 2009 after membership review from Sigma Phi Epsilon Nationals. Recent violations of the chapter have resulted in the fraternity's final decision to end the chapter's charter. "The fraternity expects chapters to hold members accountable for behavior that puts our members and others at risk," said Warren.

The North Carolina Kappa chapter members plan to appeal the decision in front of the fraternity's board of directors in April. "The (ECU) chapter has a history that they will have to take with them to the appeal and they will have to give the fraternity's board (of directors) a compelling case" to make their appeal valid, Warren said.

Warren said that Sigma Phi Epsilon's "obligation as an organization is to ensure our members' safety. We hope to give a valuable experience at every institution and we hope that every chapter can stay open at each institution."

"SigEp has been a large part of the Greek community at ECU for nearly 50 years, and we look forward to the chapter returning, whenever the national feels the time is right for the chapter to be successful," said Keith Tingley, director of ECU Greek Life.

Football accepts bowl offer in nations' capital

Staff Reports

The athletic department accepted an invitation to the Military Bowl, which is presented by Northrop Grumman at RFK Stadium located in Washington, D.C. The game will be played on Wednesday, December 29 at 2:30 p.m. EST and televised by ESPN. The pirates will play against a team from the ACC, which has yet to be named.

Tickets for the pirate section for the bowl game are available at the ECU Athletics Ticket Office at (800) DIAL-ECU. They are also available at ECUpirates.com, and Pirate Club members will have first priority to all tickets ordered by Tuesday, December 7. Afterwards, tickets will be sold on a first-come first-served basis, and pirate fans who cannot attend the game are being asked to buy tickets which would be donated to local and regional military bases.

The Pirates were 6-6 during the regular season, 5-3 in Conference USA, and this will be their fifth-straight bowl appearance.

WEB POLL

Do you plan on attending the Bowl game?

Yes

No

Check out twitter.com/ecunews and our fan page on facebook.



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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

WZMB experiences broadcast problems



LUKE RAYSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Broadcasts from WZMB radio station are only transmitted over the internet because of a blown amplifier.

Tyler Kitchens
STAFF WRITER

Due to technical difficulties, ECU's campus radio station WZMB has been unable to broadcast via radio since Oct. 19.

According to the station's gen-

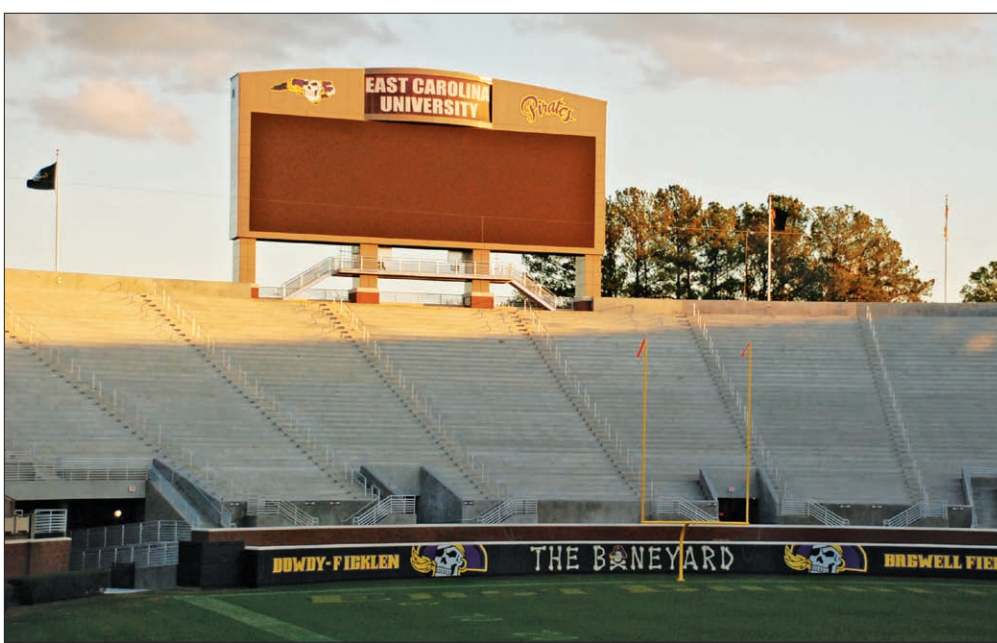
eral manager Matthew Grady, the station's transmitter, an essential device needed to get on the air, has a blown amplifier.

"Our transmitter is a pretty old unit. It was installed back in the early 1980s," he explained. "Basically, the blown amplifier

within our transmitter is keeping us from broadcasting in the Greenville area."

Through this difficult situation, the station is attempting to

> WZMB page A2



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Stands in the Boneyard student section will remain concrete until a decision can be made on what to build.

Bleachers will have to wait

Hannah Jackson
STAFF WRITER

Even though The Boneyard has been without bleachers for months now, construction will not be taking place any time soon. In September, ECU announced that the bleachers would be repaired in time for the home game against N.C. State. In a press release two months ago, the university stated that construction would have to begin after football season.

Even though the football season is now over, no work will begin on the bleachers yet. Taking into consideration the time for redesign and approval, it will now be at least spring before any construction begins on the south end of the stadium.

The executive director of University Communications and assistant secretary to the ECU Board of Trustees, John Durham, stated, "ECU officials have sent the

plans to the North Carolina State Construction Office for review and approval for the reinstallation of the bleachers."

Reinstallation will include testing the anchors before installation of brackets or seats to ensure the safety of the students in the end zone. T. A. Loving, the general contracting firm out of Goldsboro that installed the old bleachers and is also working on the new softball stadium, is working on repair and replacement as well. But the university has been exploring different options and contractors, so ECU officials are unsure who will be completing the work.

The cause of rebuilding occurred on Sept. 5 at the home game against Tulsa when three rows of bleachers collapsed in the newly built Boneyard student section. During the game, at least 10 rows were taken down throughout the first and second quarter, and students were relocated to other

parts of the stadium. Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium was packed with over 50,000 people in attendance and the relocating caused quite a space problem.

Around a dozen students were injured, but no serious injuries were reported. There were only minor scrapes and cuts, which were treated at the first aid tent within the stadium itself. Vice Chancellor for Campus Operations Bill Bagnell said T.A. Loving, along with ECU contractors and a structural engineer, determined that the mechanical fasteners holding the bleachers to the concrete pulled away, causing the bleachers to fail. After the collapse, the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission also began an investigation on campus as to why the bleachers somehow became unattached to the concrete.

> BLEACHERS page A2

Athletes partake in can food drive

Abbey Way
STAFF WRITER

Student athletes donated 4,517 cans to the Greenville branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina before Thanksgiving last week. The canned food drive was organized by the athletic department as a part of the Conference USA Changing Lives Program.

"The canned food drive is something we have always done as long as I can remember, even when I was a student athlete," said Jamie Quinn, and academic and life skills coordinator for the athletic department. "Now it has become a C-USA tradition to have some kind of competition around Thanksgiving time to help, whether it's a coin drive or canned food drive."

According to Angel Ray, the volunteer coordinator for the Greenville branch Food Bank, the cans donated by the athletic department were equal to 4,113 pounds that resulted in 3,464 meals for those in need. She added that this was one of the largest donations they received. "It's important especially this time of year because there are times that we don't have anything on our shelves," Ray said.

The athletes received one hour of community service for every five cans that they donated. Community service is something that is stressed by the athletic department and some coaches require a specific number of hours that athletes must complete before they can compete.

Head track and field coach Kurt Kraft said that it is a requirement on the track and field team that each athlete completes a minimum of 13 hours.

"It's always better to give than to receive so what we do is ask our team to go out and bring in food so we can give it to the less fortunate people," Kraft said. "We can't forget about the people who are helping us when it comes to scholarships, uniforms and facilities."

The men's track and field team came in second when compared to the other teams at ECU, bringing in a total of 450 cans. Dennis Aliotta and Sam Barnhardt, both juniors on the men's track and field team, each donated 125 cans.

"Me and Sam both donated 100 last year so we needed to up the ante a little bit and show some good leadership to get everyone else to donate," Aliotta said.

Barnhardt added, "I feel like the community helps us out a lot so giving back is just something we want to do."

But the sport that has shown an all around team effort is softball. Last year, they donated 1,277 cans. This year, they surpassed that with 1,289 cans.

"Softball is an example of a team that really works together and they think outside of the box," Quinn said.

Freshman softball players Jill Jelnick and Rebecca Lee said that their secret is setting goals and reaching out to the community. "Our goal was 15 hours of volunteer work but we try and get more than that," Lee said. Lee explained that they went door to door asking people to contribute to the canned food drive and if they were not home they left a bag and a note and picked it up later.

"Our coaches are really big on community service and it's always been a big part of our reputation," Jelnick said.

The men's tennis team brought in 145 cans last year and 216 this year. "We all did it on the team to show that Pirate Tennis cares about the community," said Stian Tvedt, a junior on the tennis team.

The woman's basketball team also improved their numbers since last year's drive with 109 cans to 170. "I think the Food Bank is something that is very special and we talk to our players about giving back," Fred Applin, an assistant coach for woman's basketball, said. "It's a competition among the sports but the bottom line is giving back and we like to give back."

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Community responds to campus incident

A small group of students assaulted two campus guests

Jimmy Youn
STAFF WRITER

The incident occurred around 2:30 a.m. on Oct. 14 outside of Tyler Hall. Two campus guests were first attacked with sexist and homophobic comments and then physically assaulted by a small group of ECU students. The guests ended up seeking treatment at the hospital. Both victims required immediate medical attention for a broken jaw and a brain injury.

In response to such a shocking event taking place on campus, ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard sent an e-mail to the ECU community in which he stated incisively that this type of aberrant behavior is completely inappropriate and will not be tolerated. He told the community that they have every right to be bothered by this tragic matter. Furthermore, Chancellor Ballard made clear that his administration shares his frustration and disappointment.

"I believe Chancellor Ballard was as kind as he could be when he sent out the letter to the ECU community, and I am glad that the chancellor is adamant on keeping the campus safe," said Katy Ross, president of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) Student Union at ECU.

Tremayne Smith, president of the Student Government Association, mentioned that SGA officers have written a letter concerning this situation to Chancellor Ballard last week. "First of all, it is never good to hear anyone being assaulted on campus. So we, my administration, expressed our concerns to the chancellor in a letter that the incident is intolerant and inappropriate. I believe this is a possible hate crime and it is certainly disturbing to hear such grievous news," said Smith.

Criminal charges have been filed against those who were involved in the incident. According to Ross, "The group of ECU students has been identified and will face charges in relation to the ECU student code of conduct from the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities." On the other hand, sexual orientation is not contained in North Carolina's hate crime statute.

Indeed, the ECU community is profoundly dismayed to have experienced such a surreal incident on campus.

Not only do faculty, staff and students feel that the incident is unsavory, they believe that the dilemma simply cannot be overlooked. For this purpose, a special Bias Assessment and Response Task Force was formed forthwith to address concerns and to develop a campus plan to educate the ECU community about hate crimes and to strengthen communication between students and the community. Smith also says, "SGA will constantly be reaching out to dif-

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ferent groups of students and will host town hall meetings to listen to any concerns which they have and to stay connected with the ECU community to remain in good communication."

The GLBT will continue to encourage students and support them in any given situation. Ross

pointed out that a vast amount of volunteers and supporters came to GLBT making commitments to hinder from any hapless incidents as occurred last month. The investigation is ongoing.

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Cameron Gupton
 STAFF WRITER

According to researchers at Michigan State University, the class of 2011 can expect the best job outlook in years. Since the fall of the economy, many graduates have had significant troubles trying to find jobs upon completion of college. Well, not anymore. The Recruiting Trends 2010-2011 survey, published on Nov. 17, stated that 122,000 job opportunities will be open to graduates across the entire spectrum of degrees.

Of all of the jobs that will need filling in 2011, 72 percent require only a bachelor's degree to qualify for opening positions. A survey of employers found that there will be as much as a 10 percent increase in the hiring of bachelor degree holders. "The market for new grads took a positive step forward with this increase," said Phil Gardner, direc-

tor of Michigan State's Collegiate Employment Research Institute in an article from CNN. However, Gardner did offer a warning with this good news. "The jump is superficial and does not run deep."

Gardner believes there is still too much uncertainty within the economy for every senior to believe that he or she will in fact land a job following commencement. According to Gardner, employers are willing to hire graduates of bachelor degree programs but are still wary to hire in general.

In an interview, Jim McAtee of ECU's Career Center extended his words of advice to students on campus. "I do believe that ECU students will be competitive in the job market." McAtee also stressed that complete confidence is probably not the best route to take. "While the news is coming out that the job market is better, I'm telling students to expect it to be the same."

Seniors here at ECU feel pretty certain that they will be able to obtain the jobs they desire after graduation. Senior Justin Adams said, "I don't think it will be hard for me to get a job, especially since I'm pursuing kinesiology. There are a lot of people with health issues today, and exercise prevents disease and is preventative health care. Therefore, my major is in high demand." When asked if Adams thought he would receive a job with only a bachelor's degree, he remarked, "I have to obtain at least a master's degree. I would like to get my doctorate eventually; having a bachelor's degree in my major is irrelevant."

The survey also released information about what employers look for in potential employees. According to the survey, employers need to find the best talent. They want to find skills and abilities that will resemble the organization's purpose. Majoring in specific fields is

still necessary, but employers are beginning to incorporate communication skills, leadership qualities and teamwork history in their quest for the perfect employee.

McAtee commented that while this is mostly true, having a concentration is important. "Someone who has training in their field and has communication skills is a problem solver, and critical thinker is ideal." Regarding majors, McAtee stated, "Major does matter but is not the defining attribute."

Overall, students everywhere can expect a positive shift in their hunt for employment in 2011. Though things are looking up, they should still heed the warnings of career center professionals: Approach your search with optimism but do not be overconfident.

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

BLEACHERS

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Since the removal of all the bleachers in the section, students in the end zone have been sitting or standing on the concrete during each of the home games throughout the season. It has been reported that students liked the concrete the way it was, as it provided more space for sitting and standing.

One of the concerns about that is that during a rainstorm, the water has nowhere to drain. It will puddle where students are potentially sitting or standing. Another factor that comes into play is that it is winter, and construction is unlikely to proceed because of materials freezing. Officials are hoping to have bleachers in place in time for the opening home game in 2011.

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

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Football also improved from last year's results of 193 cans to 214 this year. Torrance Hunt, a sophomore, said that he brought in 10 cans because he knows that people need them and he felt it was the right thing to do. "It's very important because a lot of people look up to the athletes of their community," Hunt said.

The baseball team improved from 75 cans last year to 172 this year. Kevin Brandt, a junior, said he donated to help those in need of canned goods. He added that the baseball team is also involved in afterschool programs at local elementary schools. "I think it's pretty huge for them to see us out doing stuff and helping the community and it will all pay off in the long run," Brandt said.

The complete results include: volleyball 175, women's track 296, men's track 450, women's tennis 20, men's tennis 216, women's swimming and diving 260, men's swimming and diving 169, softball 1,289, women's soccer 256, women's

golf 325, men's golf 44, football 214, women's cross country 261, men's cross country 200, women's basketball 170, men's basketball 0 and baseball 172.

Although men's basketball was the only team that did not participate in the canned food drive, according to Quinn, in the team's defense they were on the road during the time of the canned food drive.

Last year, the Pirates finished third compared to the other athletic departments in the conference, producing \$2,263 worth of food. This year's final results are not expected to be in until January.

Zachary Montijo, a junior on the cross country and track and field team, said, "The best thing about it is that it's a great cause and it's helping people in need that would really appreciate the food around this time and don't have the same advantages and resources as we do."

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

Top Donators:

Softball	1,289
Men's	450
Women's Golf	325

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Men's Golf	325
Women's Tennis	20
Men's Basketball	0

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WZMB continued from A1

glean positives wherever possible. "This has been a reoccurring issue for us but the positive about this time is that we stream online now. Our DJs are still able to come in and work, whereas in past years we were basically dead in the water," said Grady. "The station has been making a lot of strides this semester, so this has definitely been a bit of a setback."

Grady also expressed satisfaction that the online stream has been able to help the station's listening audience stay connected through this situation.

"We have a pretty big following. The stream is keeping us afloat because anywhere you have an Internet connection and flash, you can pretty much get us. Some stations only broadcast online now, so in a sense we're kind of taking it into the 21st century around here."

According to Terrence Dove, WZMB's coordinator, the online stream has also been helpful by allowing the station to maintain its sponsorships.

"Our sponsors have been very loyal. While they understand that this is an issue, they also understand that it's nothing that the station or that the DJs have done. It's just wear and tear," he said. "They realize that for what they were paying, they were basically getting the online stuff for free, so it's a balancing kind of thing.

We haven't had any complaints at all from them."

Another internal issue related to the broadcasting problems the station is currently experiencing is the loss of their audio engineer. Earlier in the year, the contract of the station's longtime engineer expired and they have been unable to locate a replacement for him.

"Since we've been open, we've had the same engineer. He's normally the person who comes to work on stuff like this," said Grady. "He had been with us for 20 or 30 years and in the midst of his contract expiring we started experiencing transmitter issues."

Dove stated that the station has been in contact with the Society of Broadcast Engineers and various other engineers in search of a replacement. They are currently having contractual negotiations with an area engineer who has expressed interest in the position but at this point nothing is set in stone.

"We have been in contact with a technical engineer from Raleigh. He realized there was a problem with the amplifier so he is now talking to our former engineer about what needs to happen from this point," said Dove.

Grady believes that the nature of the malfunction combined with the age of the technology being used

has added an extra dimension of complexity to the problem.

"I don't think there are a whole lot of people in the state or region who are even qualified to do this and unfortunately we can't just snap our fingers and find another engineer," he said.

Senior music major Aaron Kingsberry, who is a DJ for the station, said he feels some additional pressure around the station as a result of this issue.

"There is stress for the DJs and managers because we know that there are a lot of people who want to listen to our station," he said. "I can't fully speak for our managers, but if you were to put me in their shoes, I would be frustrated because this is something that we need to connect with people who enjoy listening to WZMB."

Grady said that the station is currently awaiting further correspondence from the engineer who helped diagnose the problem in order to put together a timetable for repair.

"Obviously this is not what we would like to see, but hopefully it will get resolved and by the spring semester we can get back on air," he said.

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

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I probably gained 10 pounds over Thanksgiving weekend. It's okay though because it's hooded sweatshirt weather not swimsuit weather.

A week before finals and I somehow lose my notebook with all my semester notes for two Chemistry and two Biology courses. FML!

ECU should have a program like Cha Cha. Great idea, right? Exactly what I thought.

To the girl that dropped her phone in that puddle: Ha!

Why am I just figuring out that Joyner has touch-screen computers?!

Apparently Ruffles Potato Chip Girl didn't read the rants last week. She brought Lays this time!

It amazes me when your group members for a project can update their statuses on Facebook, but they can't manage to write back to a message about the project.

Where is the excitement this year? Bring back zombies vs. humans!!!

To the girl in my 9:30 a.m. Ecology class that spilled coffee all over me, coughed her head off the whole time and acted like a spazz during the test: Chill out, get your life together and never sit near me again!

I finally decided to Facebook stalk a girl in my Phys. Ed. class and then I saw those dreaded words on her profile: "Is in a relationship with." FAIL!

After this weekend, I shall never eat again...

I am so ready for next semester...that refund check is calling my name!

Is it bad that I'm a senior and I want to change my major, because I realized that I do not want to work with kids?

Proof I'm in College: I woke up in the morning and ate an old, cold half of a cup noodles that was sitting next to my bed, because I was hungry but to lazy to get out of bed.

Dear Roomie: Leaving stupid notes with your complaints on my door is not effective. Maybe if you would consider someone else's feelings for once I would consider cleaning your dishes. P.S. You owe me some wine glasses.

I don't know why, but every time I study and I yawn I feel like I'm about to hulk out... so everybody in the library should probably watch out!

The only test I wanted to fail this semester was my pregnancy test, but I passed...fml!

The week after Thanksgiving is the one week of the semester when I actually have food in my microfridge.

Does it really take an email from the Chancellor to tell you that homophobic insults are socially unacceptable? If you couldn't figure that out, you have no business attending an institution of higher learning.

I'm not scared that holiday weight-gaining season is here: I'm a true Pirate, so my weight is gained from tailgating season.

You are not two! So stop putting your hair on top of your head like you are an alfalfa sprout. It is not cute.

More Pirate Rants on the website!

Fearless or foolish?



Ryan Chandler
OPINION COLUMNIST

There are many bars and clubs in the downtown Greenville area. Last time you were in one, did you really believe that every person in the room was getting home via Pirate Express, cab or a sober driver?

Let's be honest: How many times have you climbed behind the wheel after having a good amount of alcohol and told yourself that you are fine?

I know you've never been pulled over, which makes it tempting to think you're not a drunk driver, but the average person charged with DUI has already done it 80 times before, as stated in the New York Post. So you're making a bold decision and showing no regard for life when the ignition is turned.

Now, I'm all about having fun and enjoying the party, but we can be responsible about it as well. Popular culture loves to glamorize crazy college drinking stories on film and television, but the sad reality is that this drinking leaves the



ILLUSTRATED BY LOGAN WAGONER

lives of students in ruins and damages the university, as well as the surrounding community.

Many students have left the parental control that they were tightly held by for so long. Now that they are free with no rules or boundaries, they are open to the exposure of their environment with decisions that will be made independently and not by the guiding light of their elders who can keep them from making mistakes.

College is an exciting period in your life. The possibilities are endless and the drinking seems to be too. So many times when I'm out with friends, I see people at parties getting into cars with someone

else who has been drinking just so they can travel to the next place of nightly entertainment. I start to think of the risk that every person in that car is taking and wonder if they know that this is exactly where tragedy begins.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 59 percent of all fatal accidents during the night involve alcohol. What is so difficult about a sober driver or even a cab that's a phone call away? Is there that much disregard for life?

It is good to see our university has made progress against drinking and driving and taking precautions in keeping this area safe. ECU

officials have begun to understand the power of safety and how transportation aids in reducing the amount of drinking incidents students are involved in. Pirate Express was first implemented in the fall of 2005 and has become a privilege that many Pirates depend on to travel safely to and from their humble abodes after consuming alcohol.

"Pirate Express provides a safe transportation mode for students who live in the outlining apartment complexes to visit the clubs in the downtown area in a safe manner. There is less of a chance for students who have been drinking to drive to the downtown clubs when

they have the Pirate Express available," said Major Frank Knight of the ECU Police Department.

If the university shows enough concern about your drinking safety to implement a night transit system so that you can travel to parties and the clubs without having to drive, then take advantage of it. They are saying that your life is important to them and they would rather have you in the classroom than in a coffin.

So when you're on your way out for a night of fun with friends, leave the keys behind. That car ride isn't worth it.

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

Cheating in college



Abby Brockmeyer
OPINION COLUMNIST

I am walking into one of my classes — I'm not going to name which one out of respect for the teacher — and I sit in my regular seat near the middle of the large lecture room. I turn on brickbreaker to occupy myself before the hour and a half lecture commences, and I overhear a conversation going on right next to me.

Two girls, each with the quintessential fake laugh and overly loud and obnoxious voices, were discussing the latest test we had just taken in the class and how funny it was that they had cheated on the entire test.

Now, you're probably thinking, "I mean, I've done that before. A little cheating isn't that bad as long as you don't do it on every test."

It's so weird to me that the girls next to me in my class can choose to retain in their minds a play-by-play scene of every single episode of "Glee" when I hear them talking the entire class period, but they just can't seem to remember enough information for a 50-question bubble sheet exam.

Even now as I write this article, I glance at my Facebook and can see numerous posts of people referring to their inability to study because of various distractions. Hey, here's a nifty thought! How about you get off Facebook and stop putting up statuses about how you can't study, so then maybe you can. Maybe then you won't cheat on it. But you still probably will.

"Cheating in school is just like cheating on your girlfriend or boyfriend."

I wonder how many teachers, if they found out how many students cheat on their tests, would try to fail all of them. Let's face it, probably a lot of them. I know I would be pretty upset if after all of my lectures and trying to get through to a bunch of snotty young people who would rather be anywhere except my class, I find out that a large portion of them cheat on my exams.

We are an incredibly sneaky generation, taking advantage of a 300-student lecture room and an overly trusting professor over and over again.

But why do so many students nowadays find the need to cheat in their classes? "It's not because they don't

know the material — it's because they procrastinate too long to get the work done on their own," says an article on Futurity, a website about researching colleges around the world. It's not that we are completely dumb, it's that we are just so lazy about doing any work not revolved around ourselves.

So let me break this rather blunt article of mine down for everyone. If you read the codes of misconduct for ECU, you will find that cheating on anything — a paper, an exam, a quiz — will get you seriously in trouble and possibly expelled if you are caught. Cheating in school is just like cheating on your girlfriend or boyfriend. It's wrong and it shows that you have low morals.

I don't think that I would want to walk into my doctor's office one time and hear him talking about how he cheated his way through medical school. That would probably make me a little reluctant to receive any sort of medical advice from him. Making excuses for your cheating is just plain annoying to have to listen to in college.

You might not think it's a big deal, but think if everyone in the classroom was doing it at the same time. You're not above anyone else in that classroom, and you owe that professor a little more of your respect than that.

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



ILLUSTRATED BY CHASE KRULL

To the girl in my 1100 comm class, I wish you would stop looking to the right just to look at me with the evil eye... so STOP it!

- Pirate Rant

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: opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

To the editor:

On Thursday, Nov. 11, TEC ran an article that was inaccurate and unfair to the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Our department has suffered the same kind of cutbacks as every other unit on campus, and nevertheless we are delivering our typical schedule of courses in the spring. These offerings include beginning sections of French, German and Spanish as they do every semester, but as usual with other languages that have a smaller audience — like Greek, Italian, Japanese, Latin or Russian — we offer beginning sections only in the fall semester.

Our faculty has had an enormous amount of success in recruiting and retaining majors and minors. Contrary to that article, there has been no decrease in the interest in foreign languages, and the fact that so many beginning language sections are filled-to-overflowing shows the increase of interest in our languages. Our four main language groups all fill their basic courses, and in the last two years they have all doubled the number of their majors. It is hard to see this kind of activity as "low productivity" in any meaningful sense. It is also true that we do not yet know what numbers the UNC General Administration draws on for its report, but there is no doubt that its numbers of our graduating students are incorrect and ours correct.

Our faculty has acted proactively and presented Provost Sheerer with a list of reasons why it is necessary to retain foreign languages programs if ECU is to remain a regionally important university and if it is to provide the Global Education it boasts about providing. We also contacted specific students to share their educational experience with the provost in writing. The upper administration at ECU and the UNC General Administration both need to come to grips with the fact that our students will be at a major disadvantage in the developing world marketplace if they cannot speak a second language at all. If the United States is to maintain both its economic competitive edge and its role as world leader in the future, we had better be preparing more students to graduate in foreign languages now. Even the CIA and FBI are already six months behind in their translation of documents — and that includes documents in less familiar as well as more familiar languages.

Sincerely,
Frank Romer

POLL RESULTS

Are you upset about the possible Four Loko ban?

Yes	35%
No	65%

STAFF INFORMATION

Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief

Andrea Robertson Managing Editor
Kelly Nurge Public Editor
Katie Hatfield Production Manager
Michael Perry Sports Editor
Jennifer Soares News Editor
Caitlin Hale Lifestyles Editor
Leila Falls Opinion Editor
Matt Shapiro Photo Editor
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Christina Scarbel Advertising Manager
Samantha Eads Head Copy Editor

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Contact Info

Newsroom 252.328.9238 Fax 252.328.9143 Advertising 252.328.9245

TBS's 'Glory Daze' struggles to live up to the fun time it promises

★☆☆☆

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

TBS travels back to the days of cassette tapes, crazy hairdos and Brat Pack films to give audiences a look at college life in the '80s with its new comedy, "Glory Daze."

"Glory Daze" tells the story of four freshmen guys as they begin their college journeys at an Indiana college in 1986. Naturally, as with any '80s college story, the guys decide that the only way to get girls and feel a sense of fulfillment is by joining a fraternity. This is about all an audience needs to know about the plot to grasp the concept of this unnecessary rip-off of '80s classic films like "Animal House" and anything starring Molly Ringwald.

Most would think that a TV show based in the '80s but made in 2010 would, more than anything, focus on the cultural differences of the time, but "Glory Daze" doesn't do this. In fact, there is a serious lack of nostalgia in the first two episodes to the point where this story could be told in any era. Once the excitement of seeing these characters dressed in funky clothes and hearing '80s classics playing in the background wears off, there really isn't much to keep the audience interested.

The four leads are almost the only thing that work for this show. Of the four, Joel, played by Kelly Blatz (of Disney XD's "Aaron Stone" fame), is the main character who portrays the clichéd but lovable geek who is pining after the girl he can't have. Drew Seelye (the guy who provided Zac Efron's vocals for the first "High School Musical") plays Jason, a young Republican who is slowly losing sight of his political ambitions, and newcomer Hartley Sawyer plays Brian, a baseball jock who feels pressured by his father to play baseball. The funniest of the four is Eli, a self-proclaimed stud whose only goal in college is to lose his virginity, a role that is actually played very well by Matt Bush (best known for his AT&T rollover minutes commercials and "Adventureland").

As a group, these four guys do create funny moments, but sadly their scenes are bogged down by the overwhelming fact that all of this has been done before. The '80s are not an unknown subject to audiences, with recent films like "Hot Tub Time Machine" and the aforementioned "Adventureland" being just a few films that have based their stories in the '80s. Plus, by having a show about college life on television, it means that a lot of the subjects have to be dialed down to an appropriate level, which is something that greatly hinders the show's attempt to seem like it belongs in the category of R-rated classics such as "Animal House." Senior business major Brad Light didn't really connect with the show either, saying, "It was funny and all but it's hard to believe a show about a college when it feels like it's rated PG-13. In reality, we all know college is not rated PG-13."

Steve DeMeo, a senior marketing major, agrees. "I tried my best, but I just couldn't get into it. One of my favorite movies is 'Animal House' and compared to that, 'Glory Daze' doesn't even come close."

One ray of hope for "Glory Daze" is that it has a chance to get better and its second episode proved that it. Featuring a better though still clichéd storyline and a great cameo performance by Fred Willard, the second episode showed that if it tries, "Glory Daze" could still be a show with a little originality and not just a copy of every college cliché ever put on screen. But to get where it obviously wants to be, it has got a long way to go. Once "Glory Daze" stops trying to become the next great college movie and realize the limitations of being a TV show, it can start to focus on fixing the problems that are weighing it down.

"Glory Daze" airs Tuesdays at 10 p.m. on TBS.

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

Remembering Briana Gather and Victoria Carter



Briana Gather spends time with two close friends.



Jilil Thwreath, Marcelle Vielot, Victoria Carter, Nakia McDonald, Jenna Christie-Tabron and Adam Dawkins pose before an event.



Briana Gather and a friend dine together at a local restaurant.



Victoria Carter was a passionate student who touched many lives.

Katey Warren
STAFF WRITER

To some, the statement "every day is a new smile" may not hold any significance, but to the friends and loved ones of Briana Gather, or "Bre," as they liked to call her, the phrase takes on a new and much deeper meaning.

It is a phrase that was special to Gather, and one she edited into her most recent Facebook profile picture before she tragically passed away on Sunday, Nov. 21, after a car accident in Greenville.

Gather's sudden death has shaken up the lives of her loved ones. They came together to celebrate her life at a funeral service last Saturday, and those who attended were reminded of just how much support and love surrounded Gather.

"Everybody was there together, helping and comforting each other," said 19-year-old long-time friend Thomas McEachin.

To her closest friends, the day of Gather's death marked a day they lost a friend who always had a smile on her face, always made them laugh and was always there to listen. Gather was the one her friends could always count on and could always look to to lift their spirits with her welcoming smile.

According to April Alford, an ECU student who instantly clicked with Gather after finding out she was one of Gather's residents in Aycock dormitory last year, Gather was "a crazy ball of fire" and "tiny, but she had a big voice. She knew what she wanted."

Alford looked up to Gather, and Gather frequently referred to Alford as her little sister and her "mini me." This wasn't out of the ordinary for Gather, who viewed her friends as family and her family as friends. She was the only child to her mother Renata Leonard, and according to Gather's friends, she and her mother had a very close relationship. Leonard viewed her not only as her daughter, but also as her best friend.

Whenever her friends had problems, they always knew that Gather would be there to listen and give advice. McEachin recalls a time when he called Gather to vent about a problem, and they talked from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Even though one of her favorite songs was "Billionaire" by Travie McCoy, Gather was selfless. She loved to buy gifts for others but did not like receiving them herself. "She was down to earth," said ECU student and Gather's roommate Makeda Parker.

"Her friends view her as a life-changer," said 21-year-old Ron Couthren, who had been dating Gather since January. "When she came into their lives, she did nothing but change it and make it better. Her smile would just brighten up their day." Gather's roommate Brittney Myers agrees with Couthren. She recalled several occasions in which Gather motivated her to want to participate in different activities such as volunteer work and campus organizations.

Though her friends emphasize that she wasn't the greatest cook, they loved to

bake together. Her roommates Parker and Myers and boyfriend Couthren recalled that many of their favorite memories with Gather were in the kitchen, baking anything from brownies and cookies to cakes and cupcakes.

Throughout her life, Gather kept herself busy. She was born and raised in Winston-Salem, N.C. She was an active participant of the St. Peter's Church and World Outreach Center, where she sang in the choir and danced as a praise dancer. She lived with her mother but traveled to Ohio during most summers to visit her father. Gather attended her freshman year of high school in her hometown, then transferred to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, N.C., where she served as a student ambassador, was a member of the Hispanic Club and was a fashion show and talent director. She also kept physically active by participating in track and field, volleyball and cheerleading.

When Gather enrolled at ECU, her ambitious personality propelled her to participate in even more activities. She majored in biology, was a chemical laboratory intern at Syngenta Crop Protection, a member of the Black Student Union, inducted into the Golden Key International Society and a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Though she had a lot on her plate, Gather never lost sight of how important her friends were to her and always made sure she spent time with them. "She valued friendship a lot," roommate Myers said.

When Gather was not hanging out with her friends and family or doing schoolwork, she loved spending her time with children. She aspired to become a pediatrician and volunteered as a Big Sister. She was also an assistant with the Winston-Salem Children's Museum. "She talked about kids all the time," Couthren said. "She wanted to have four kids -- two of her own, and she wanted to adopt two." She had plans to enroll in medical school after graduating from ECU to fulfill her dream.

ECU's Black Student Union is sponsoring an event for Gather tonight in Mendenhall. The event will begin at 10 p.m. and will last until 1 a.m. The entry cost, which is \$3 for members of the Black Student Union, \$5 for ECU students and \$7 for all others, will all be given to Gather's family to help them cover the expenses associated with their loss.

Though her friends and family continue mourning the loss of Gather and the tragic way her life was cut short, they also continue to celebrate her life and are thankful for how she touched each of their lives. "She's gone to a better place, and there's nothing we can do but smile and learn to live with it," said Alford. "It is OK because she's OK now."

"She made sure every day was a new smile," said McEachin, "and I think everybody should use that."

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

Rebecca Blanchette
STAFF WRITER

Victoria Carter, known as Tori by most and Vicki by some, has permanently left behind her memory in the hearts of all that knew her. "There are few people that you meet and you can look at them and see that they have a beautiful soul. She was definitely one of them," said Carter's friend and roommate Jenna Christie-Tabron.

Carter undoubtedly touched many people, as she was involved in several organizations, volunteered frequently and juggled three jobs while double majoring in business marketing and communication. "She never even looked at what it did to her. If it took up more time than anticipated, that didn't bother her because she knew it was helping somebody else," said Christie-Tabron. "She saw good in everybody."

Carter was born in Fayetteville, N.C., but her family later moved to Raleigh where she attended Enloe High School and graduated in 2008. "Our desks were next to each other in algebra class," said Christie-Tabron about when she first met Carter in high school. "We started talking about music." Carter had a love for music and a passion for writing poetry. "Her fondness for music and poetry, those were like her outlets," said Christie-Tabron. "If she was feeling something, she would write it down and turn it into a song and perform it for us."

She revealed that though Carter loved music, it wasn't exactly her calling. "The girl could not sing," she laughed. "I've never seen anybody who loved music so much but couldn't remember lyrics to a song. She would sing some and then mumble the rest." Carter also liked to rap for fun and gave herself the stage name Lyrical Seductress. "She couldn't dance either, but she liked to try," said Christie-Tabron. "One of her favorite things to attempt was the robot."

She revealed that though Carter loved music, it wasn't exactly her calling. "The girl could not sing," she laughed. "I've never seen anybody who loved music so much but couldn't remember lyrics to a song. She would sing some and then mumble the rest." Carter also liked to rap for fun and gave herself the stage name Lyrical Seductress. "She couldn't dance either, but she liked to try," said Christie-Tabron. "One of her favorite things to attempt was the robot."

Christie-Tabron couldn't help but laugh as she remembered a time when Victoria broke the light in their apartment. "She jumped up to say something and she broke the light. Everybody couldn't stop laughing. She was laughing, too." She said that Carter was always tripping over herself. "She was clumsy, man. She would just trip in the middle of the street and there was nothing to trip over." Though she had a tendency to fall over nothing, she also had a distinct strut. "She is the only person that I ever knew that had her own personal theme music when she walked," said Christie-Tabron. "She'd put on her BlackBerry and the whole world was her catwalk."

friend and roommate, said, "I know that if she was here with me today, she would say, 'Dude, I'm so proud of you!' and make me a big batch of cupcakes or something like that."

"Her two favorite words were 'dude' and 'sheesh,'" said Christie-Tabron. "She said those words I don't know how many times." She went on to tell a story about something funny Carter said once to her. "We were talking and she was like, 'Dude, I'm going to be the Best Woman in your wedding.'" Christie-Tabron laughed and replied, "You mean the Maid of Honor?" Carter answered, "I couldn't think of the name for it, so I'm going to be your Best Woman and you're going to like it!"

Though Carter had her silly side, she was also very serious about her faith, schoolwork and future. "She would stop to go read her bible every night before she went to bed," said Christie-Tabron. She also revealed some of the plans that Carter had for after ECU. "She wanted to go to Yale when she finished for their law program because she wanted to be an entertainment lawyer. That girl dreamed big."

Carter certainly took advantage of every opportunity that came her way. She belonged to Delta Sigma Theta, Black Student Union, Voices for Victims, Word of Mouth and Emerging New Talent. She was also the president of Icon Modeling Troop and volunteered with the Real Crisis Center. On top of all of that, she also worked for Expressions, The East Carolinian and Harris Teeter.

"I've never seen anybody so involved with so many organizations and still keep her head above the water," said Christina Scarbel, the student ad manager for The East Carolinian and Carter's boss at The East Carolinian. "She was my second in command. If ever I was absent, she would always step up to take care of anything that needed to be done." Scarbel went on to say, "I can't count the number of times she stayed past the clock doing stuff for me." She also explained that Carter was always praising her co-workers, sending them texts saying, "I'm really proud of you" or "You worked really hard on that." "She literally put people in a good mood just by being around her," said Scarbel.

"She inspired us to be better people," said Christie-Tabron. "I've honestly never met someone who was just so happy. All of her radiance just rubbed off on other people." McMillian agreed, saying, "No words can really describe how beautiful and inspirational she was to me." Christie-Tabron went on to explain a talk her and her roommates had about Carter. "We were saying how everything we are going to do is going to be for Tori, because she wouldn't want nothing less and she deserves nothing less," she said. "I'm gonna miss her. I'm really gonna miss her."

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



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Softball signs four for next season

Two-time defending Conference USA Coach-of-the-Year and National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Midwest Region Coaching-Staff-of-the-Year leader Tracey Kee announced Monday the addition of four freshmen to her roster for next year. Sarah Christian (Greenville, N.C.), Emma Mendoker (Amherst, Mass.), Sara Pacioni (Danville, Calif.) and Courtney Smith (Yuba City, Calif.) have signed national letters-of-intent to attend ECU and play softball with the Pirates beginning in the fall of 2011.

Women's basketball inks Tatiana Chapple

Tatiana Chapple has signed a national letter-of-intent to play for and attend ECU beginning in the fall of 2011, according to an announcement by Head Coach Heather Macy on Monday.

Chapple, a 6-foot forward who is ranked 102 at her position nationally by ESPN HoopGurlz, joins the Pirates from Northland High School in Columbus, Ohio, where she has helped the varsity squad to a three-year record of 56-11. Last season, she averaged 5.9 points, seven rebounds, 2.1 steals and 1.7 blocks per game while shooting 54 percent from the field and leading the Vikings to the district semifinals. Northland also tied Brookhaven High School for the City North title with a 13-1 league mark.

Additionally, Chapple was named to the All-City Girl's Basketball Team as an honorable mention selection and garnered Northland's Defensive Player-of-the-Year award. She has been selected a team captain for the 2010-11 season.

Chapple is also a standout track athlete, helping Northland to the City League championship her sophomore and junior seasons. She was a regional qualifier in the high jump last year and was the 2009 City League champion in the same event. Also a solid tennis player, Chapple earned a spot on the All-City Second Team.

In addition to her athletics prowess, Chapple is a solid student, having accrued a 3.9 cumulative GPA. She was named a Scholar Athlete at Northland last season and has been a member of the National Honor Society since 2009. Chapple has also served as a People to People student ambassador beginning in 2008 and is a two-time running Alpha Kappa Alpha Scholar.

TEC Pick'em winner

After 13 weeks of grueling competition, Lifestyles Editor Caitlin Hale climbed from the middle of the pack to win the TEC Pick'em college football poll over reigning champion Office Manager Jeffrey Jones.



Caitlin Spivey
Lifestyles Editor
Last week, (7-3);
Overall, (89-41)

Ask the sports editor
Have a question about the sports section contact the sports editor at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

SPORTS

Pirates bury 49ers, 62-61



Corvonn Gaines drives hard to the basket against Charlotte as Darius Morales (left) and Darrius Morrow (right) look on.

Jordan Anders

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

It was only appropriate that Pirate head football coach Ruffin McNeill was in the house for the ECU men's basketball game against Charlotte on Wednesday night.

McNeill's squad showed a penchant for close games and late-game heroics on the grid-

iron on more than one occasion in 2010, and Coach Lebo's team followed suit on Wednesday with a dramatic 62-61 victory over the 49ers.

The meeting was the second for the two teams in less than two weeks. Charlotte handed the Pirates their second loss of the season on Nov. 19, 74-63, as part of the Charleston Classic.

ECU played a poor first half and trailed 35-25 at the intermission. But the Pirates used stingy defense and timely 3-pointers to claw their way back and with 4:53 remaining in the second half and found themselves with a 59-50 advantage.

Charlotte would not go down quietly and went on an 11-0 run to erase the deficit,

taking the lead on a clutch 3-pointer by Gokhan Sirin with 14.1 seconds that silenced the raucous crowd of 3,904 inside Minges Coliseum.

On the ensuing possession, trailing by two and needing a basket to tie and potentially force overtime, Erin Straughn fired a pass inside to Darrius

BASKETBALL page A8

ECU heads to Military Bowl

Senior Day ends on an overtime interception

Adam Bunn

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Attention Pirate Nation: Pack your bags because the Pirates are going bowling. ECU formerly accepted a bid early Tuesday afternoon to play in the Military Bowl, which will feature ECU against an unnamed ACC opponent on Dec. 29.

"An opportunity to play in the Military Bowl is exciting for the Pirate Nation and for the team members due to its proximity for fans and families of the team," Director of Athletics Terry Holland said in a press release, "as well as the opportunity to play another ACC opponent this year."

For the Pirates, this will be the fifth consecutive year and seventh time since 2000 that they will get the chance to continue their season into December, as well as the 17th bowl appearance in school history.

The Pirates overall in post-season play are 8-8, with four of those victories coming in the last 10 contests. Those wins featured heart-stopping games. In the 1992 Peach Bowl, the Pirates shocked N.C. State 37-34 in one of the greatest Peach Bowl games ever. In the 1995 Liberty Bowl, ECU dispatched Stanford and even defeated Texas Tech in 2000. ECU got its last bowl victory in the Hawaii Bowl, defeat-

ing nationally ranked Boise State in an instant classic.

This will be the first year that the Military Bowl will be associated with Conference USA after two years of uncertainty. The first game in what was then know as the Eagle Bank Bowl took place in 2008 and featured a Wake Forest against Navy matchup, followed in 2009 by a UCLA against Temple contest.

"We are thrilled that ECU will represent C-USA in this year's Military Bowl," Steve Beck, executive director of the Military Bowl, said. "We look forward to playing host to the Pirate Nation in D.C."

While the news of a bowl game should cause all Pirate fans to rejoice, it doesn't dampen the fact that the Pirates' regular season ended on a sour note Friday with a 45-38 overtime loss to Southern Methodist.

After SMU running back Zach Line rushed for his second touchdown of the game to start the overtime session, Pirate quarterback Dominique Davis drove ECU inside the SMU 10-yard line. Davis was intercepted when Mustang cornerback Richard Crawford jumped a slant route run by Lance Lewis, ending the Pirates' hopes.

"The corner just made a great play. He just jumped the slant like he knew it was

coming," Davis said. "It hurts me the most that we lost it for the seniors. That's what's burning inside of me right now."

Davis, who has been battling a shoulder injury sustained to his non-throwing arm against UAB a few weeks ago, had his typical impressive game completing 33 of 45 passes for 314 yards with two touchdowns, but there was also a lone interception that lost the game for the Pirates.

Leading the way for the Pirates in the receiving category was junior wide out Lance Lewis, who caught eight passes for 154 yards and two touchdowns, while Dwayne Harris, who was playing in his last game in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, caught 10 passes, but only for 57 yards.

Trailing 14-10 after the halftime break, the Mustangs used three third-quarter scoring drives to move ahead of the Pirates.

After receiving the kickoff to start the second half, the Mustangs put together a drive using a mix of hard-nose running plays along with passing plays of 12, 16 and 35 yards down to the Pirate 6-yard line. Two plays later, quarterback Kyle Padron would find Cole Beasley on a quick slant for the touchdown,

FOOTBALL page A8



Lance Lewis makes a touchdown catch over SMU defensive back Richard Crawford on Friday. Lewis made two touchdown catches and lead the team in overall catches, despite the overtime loss to the Mustangs.

Strong season for swimming and diving

Lorianna Whitford
STAFF WRITER

As most people put away their swimsuits and pull out the winter coats, one team of Pirates is just getting their feet wet.

Nestled in the chlorine-filled quarters of Minges Coliseum resides one of ECU's greatest treasures, the aquatics department of Pirate Athletics.

If you've missed out on the first part of ECU's swimming and diving team's dazzling display of competition, don't be discouraged. They're not finished yet.

With a promising start to the season, the ECU women's team already has a 4-2 record. The men's team holds a 4-1 record to enter December.

Head Coach Rick Kobe reflected on the first part of the season.

"First semester we were extremely happy." When asked to describe their latest competition, he said, "We just came back from our big meet, the Nike Cup, the week before Thanksgiving and we swam really fast. We had a handful of top 30 times. We had two NCAA B cuts, Jenna Stewart in the 53 and Thiago Cavalcanti in the 1650. So we had one for two lanes and one in 66 lanes."

Kobe explained that you must make a "B cut" to get a chance to get invited to the championship meet.

"The Nike Cup was just a great experience for us," Kobe continued. "We took 43 athletes and everyone did really well."

During ECU's holiday break, the swimming and diving Pirates will continue their tradition for the 29th year in a row by heading to Florida for a holiday training camp.

Kobe explained the team's plans for the trip. "We leave Dec. 27 for our Christmas training trip. There is no school, so we bring them down to Florida and we compete down there, but it's truly more of a training trip. We'll practice five hours a day. We'll get everyone back to Greenville in really good shape."

When asked how his athletes generally seem to feel about training camp, Kobe said, "They would much rather be on a training trip than here to train. Every swim team is somewhere training over the holidays. It just gets us to the next level of conditioning."

Kobe explained that the training trip is physically very challenging, but because there is not the added pressure of school, "They enjoy the trip."

Kobe emphasized his pride for all of his athletes. When asked which athletes have stood out this year, he mentioned the two

SWIMMING page A8

SWIMMING continued from A7

who made the B cut at the Nike Cup: Jenna Stewart and Cavalcanti. He also gave praise to Natalia Favoreto and Meghan Coyne. Andrew Stoker and J.D. Flanagan joined Cavalcanti as men to keep your eye on this season.

ECU's swim team has a never-quit attitude with a work ethic to match. "Swimming is a conditioning sport," Kobe said, "You miss two or three days and it's going to take you two or three days to catch up. With a skill sport, you can be out for a while and then jump right back in, but in a conditioning sport such as swimming, you can't do that."

One may wonder how the Pirate swimmers have time for academics with such an intense practice schedule, but both the men's and women's teams generally maintain a

cumulative average of 3.0 GPA, making these Pirates true examples of dedicated collegiate athletes by exuding hard work in the classroom and in the water.

When asked about his teams' academics, Kobe was crystal clear. "We anticipate everyone to be at that 3.0 or higher."

In the midst of an intense season, Pirate aquatics recently signed six impressive young athletes to join the team next season, making for an impressive past, an exciting present and a promising future for the Pirates of the water.

Kobe has high hopes for the remainder of the season.

"We want everyone that goes to Houston (Conference USA Championship) to swim fast, to truly reach their highest potential,"

Kobe said. "If you reach your potential and you swim fast, the place you get is what you get. If you swim up to your capabilities, there is nothing you can do except what you've done. So you leave very satisfied. And that's the nice thing about swimming; you just have to go and you have to step up. When it's time to swim fast, swim fast. It's a pretty simple philosophy."

The Pirates will be back and ready for action Jan. 15 against Old Dominion in Minges Coliseum.



Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams are having a successful year.

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

BASKETBALL continued from A7

Morrow, who was fouled as he made his fourth field goal of the night, tying the game at 61.

But the lead change was anything but certain as Morrow, who is only a 57 percent free throw shooter, stepped to the line for one of the biggest shots of his career.

"I didn't want to go to overtime," Morrow said. "I just put all my focus in on that one free throw."

Morrow's free throw was true, putting the Pirates up 62-61 and reigniting Pirate Nation in the stands.

The 49ers still had hope with 3.8 seconds on the clock. But Phil Jones's heave from half-court flew harmlessly wide of the basket, giving ECU its fifth win at home. The Pirates controlled the

opening tip, but allowed Charlotte to get out to a quick 1-2 lead in the first four minutes. A 3-pointer by Brock Young, followed by back-to-back 3-pointers by Jontae Sherrod, who would hit five on the night, sparked a 14-2 run for the Pirates that brought them back to take a 16-14 lead.

The end result was a 35-25 advantage for the 49ers after the first half.

Coach Lebo's team battled back from the start of the second half. After 49er Derrio Green hit a 3-pointer to make Charlotte's lead 40-27 at the 18:55 mark of the second half, the Pirates went on a 32-10 run over the next 14 minutes to take the 59-50 lead that set up the dramatic final five minutes.

Sherrod led the Pirates with 19 points, shooting 7 of 12 from the field and 5 of 9 from behind the arc. Brock Young continued his resurgence from a torn meniscus, scoring 14 points and dishing 6 assists. The 14 points leaves Young just two points shy of 1,000 for his career.

"Now you see why I have no hair," Lebo said jokingly. "That was a great college basketball game."

The Pirates return to the hardwood at Minges Coliseum on Saturday, Dec. 4, against Fayetteville State. Tipoff is scheduled for 5 p.m.

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

FOOTBALL continued from A7

giving SMU the 17-14 lead.

Following consecutive three and outs by both teams, the Pirates seemed to be putting together a nice drive until running back Jonathan Williams had the ball ripped from his arms by an SMU defender and was returned 33 yards by the Mustangs' Ja'Gared Davis for a touchdown, putting the Mustangs up 24-14.

After both team exchanged touchdowns to start the fourth quarter, the Pirates found themselves trailing by 14 with just nine minutes remaining and once again needing a magical performance from the offense.

"That means we have to fight even harder," Lewis said of the

Pirates' ability to fight back late in games. "We've been behind before, and coach always says we've got to play four quarters, 60 minutes. That lets the offense know we've got to step up and do our stuff."

ECU cut the lead to seven with five minutes left after Davis rushed the ball into the end zone from 9 yards out. After a three and out by SMU, the Pirates had just over two and a half minutes to force overtime. Davis and the Pirates would use every bit of that time moving down the field slowly before Davis found Lewis at the goal line and the game-tying touchdown with just 12 seconds left.

With the win, SMU clinched

a spot in the C-USA title game where they will face Central Florida from the Eastern Division. It is the first time in three years that the Pirates haven't represented the east in the title game.

The Pirates' best drive of the entire season came on their first drive of the game as Davis drove the Pirates 97 yards for their opening possession touchdown.

The Pirates held a 14-0 lead after the first quarter after Williams scored from 2 yards out midway through the first stanza.

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

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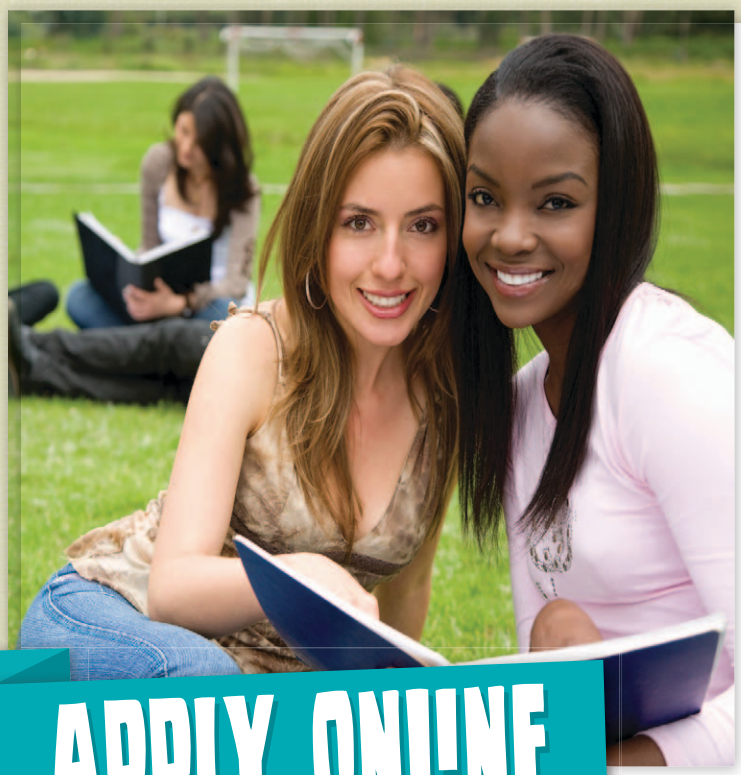
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