

## INSIDE

**OPINION:** Seeing the parking enforcement people parked illegally reminds me how prevalent double standards are on this campus. **A3**

**LIFESTYLES:** TEC talks with Andrew Jenks about his love of filmmaking, future plans, and the upcoming second season of his MTV show "World of Jenks". Turn to Lifestyles to learn more about this famous documentarist! **A4**

**SPORTS:** ECU baseball is set to begin its conference schedule with the Memphis Tigers on Friday. Turn to sports to read up on the surging Pirate baseball program. **A6**

## BRIEFS

### Wreck takes life of graduate student

#### Staff Reports

According to WITN, at about 8 a.m. Monday, 24-year-old Amanda Kelly was killed in a wreck on U.S. Highway 264.

Kelly was a graduate student at the university and a native of Ontario, Canada.

Investigators believe that Kelly over-corrected and lost control of her 2000 Ford Taurus, going off the road and into the center median and then collided with 31-year-old Johnnie Page, III of Sims, N.C.

Kelly was pronounced dead at the scene. The wreck is still under investigation.

### Sculpture Exhibition displays art on campus

#### Staff Reports

The Down East Sculpture Exhibition, a program put on by the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, the S.A.B. and the City of Greenville is now displaying sculptures on campus.

Four sculptures were chosen to go on display; three of them are on campus and one is in front of Chico's downtown.

According to Holly Garriott, the executive director of the Pitt County Arts Council, the sculptures will be on display for a year before new ones are put in place.

Carl Billinsley and Matt Harding are the artists behind the sculptures near Mendenhall Student Center and Kevin Vanek created the sculpture in front of Chico's.

In addition to the outdoor sculptures, there is an indoor exhibit at the Arts Council until April 1.

Closing ceremonies for the exhibit will be held April 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Arts Council.

### Police arrest man accused of shooting 4-year-old

#### Staff Reports

Greenville Police arrested Reggie Tyson on Tuesday after he was involved in a shooting on Sunday, reported a WITN article.

Tyson shot the front door of Montressa Wilkins' apartment, injuring her 4-year-old son.

Tyson is being held under \$175,000 bond and will make his first court appearance on Wednesday.

### Witness testifies in Richardson murder trial

#### Staff Reports

WITN reported that another person has testified that he saw James Richardson threaten employees at The Other Place nightclub.

Richardson is charged in the drive-by shootings of Andrew Kirby and Landon Blackley in June 2009.

Vidal Thorpe testified that he saw Richardson at the nightclub and then a few minutes later saw him holding a gun out of a white BMW as it was driving away.

Thorpe just released this information two weeks ago saying that he thought there were plenty of witnesses and that he would be contacted by police if he was needed.

## WEB POLL

### Do you agree with Obama's decision to not back the ban on gay marriage?

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# The East Carolinian

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



DOUG MACKENZIE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

GLBTSU hosted their first annual amateur drag show that included students from the university.

## Amateur drag show debut

### Jamitress Bowden

STAFF WRITER

Monday, in honor of Diversity Week, an amateur drag show debuted at Hendrix Theater sponsored by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Student Union and the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

The GLBTSU hosts a drag show every semester. However, this was the first time that students could participate. The amateurs competed for a prize and got a chance to show their peers how well they can put on a show.

The drag shows typically have good attendance rates. Monday night's show had a total of 743 people in attendance

and the ushers had to turn away approximately 50 people. The drag show last semester overcrowded the theater, and due to fire safety regulations, they were strict with the capacity level this semester. Some people were in line for one and a half hours before the show started.

By the time the doors opened, the line was wrapped around the building. Students who faithfully attend the drag shows go for a certain "Attitude Check." Like at all the drag shows, Michelle Michaels made a memorable appearance.

Michelle, otherwise known as Shawn, was the com-

> DRAG page A2

## Uptown plaza renovation underway

### Jimmy Youn

STAFF WRITER

The construction at the Five Points Plaza in downtown Greenville is scheduled for completion by the end of May. Following the ribbon-cutting event on June 1, the Uptown Umbrella Market will be held from 5 to 8 p.m.

"The Five Points Plaza is bringing shelters to be used for special events, added electricity and potable water (and) whispering benches for additional gathering space," said Denise Walsh, the executive director of Uptown Greenville.

Five Points Plaza, located in the corner of Fifth and Evans Streets, has a multi-faceted approach to serve people as a vital place. The plaza will remain as a parking lot during business hours, yet it will transform into a common area for hosting celebrations, social and economic exchanges and public events, such as concerts, markets and festivals, to attract people to the center of the city.

Chris Mansfield, interim director of the ECU Department of



MEME WILSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Bruce Coward with Carolina Earth Movers and Gentry Coward with the City of Greenville work together to rebuild Five Points Plaza on the corner of Evans Street and 5th Street.

Public Health and a Greenville Redevelopment Commission member, mentioned that the Five Points Plaza was named as such from the time when Dickinson Street used to run into the center of Greenville, when the downtown Cubbies restaurant was a pharmacy. Mansfield predicts that Five Points Plaza will bring more people to Greenville by offering various events.

The City of Greenville has been the heart of Eastern North Carolina for many years and has been the economic center, providing various services in health care, commerce and education for the region. For this purpose, the Greenville City Council established a Redevelopment Commission in the fall of 2002 with a plan to revitalize central business district and surrounding neighborhoods.

With attention to emphasizing the revitalization of Greenville,

> PLAZA page A2

## Changes ahead for GRE exam

### Tyler Kitchens

STAFF WRITER

Students who had planned on waiting a few months before taking the Graduate Record Exam and applying to graduate schools may now want to reconsider this plan.

Beginning on Aug. 1, the test will undergo several new changes aimed at modernizing the exam from its current format and also making it a more acceptable alternative to colleges and universities nationwide that favor the Graduate Management Admissions Test.

One of the most notable changes to the test will be the way it is scored. On the current test, scores range from 200-800, using 10-point increments. When the new format takes effect, scores will then range from 130-170, using one-point increments.

Another change that will impact students will be the types of questions asked on the new test. There will no longer be analogies or antonyms, but students will have more reading comprehension questions. The test's current format includes these three areas, as well as questions which deal with sentence completion.

"I don't think the changes are going to have a major impact on test takers," said senior Christopher Townsend. "People made a big deal about the changes that happened in 2005 with the SAT and it didn't end up making the test that much different, so I think we'll be OK."

According to Len Weiss, Kaplan Test Prep director of graduate programs, each version of the test has its advantages and disadvantages.

"There are definite tradeoffs. On the current GRE, since you only have one scored Quant and Verbal section, the test

> GRE page A2

## Academic advising problems

### Hannah Farmer-Fernandez

STAFF WRITER

This week, students are participating in course registration for the upcoming semesters. Students met with their specified advisers to map out the upcoming summer and fall 2011 semesters.

Junior Kimberly Brown, a psychology major, said that most of her dilemmas with advising and registration this semester came from technical issues. "There have been a lot of difficulties with OneStop and Blackboard already this week. It's been down lately and students have been receiving emails for the maintenance, but it didn't make my appointment with my adviser Tuesday any easier. My adviser couldn't pull up my transcript or classes that I needed to take."

Each major at the university uses different models for advising. Some departments use full-time academic advisers and use faculty advisers simply as liaisons or mentors or have part-time academic advisers and faculty advisers.

"Art and Science major students have an academic adviser for the first two years and the last two years students are transferred to a faculty adviser," said Jennifer Cabacar, the coordinator for undergraduate student services at the Academic Advising and Support Center.

Each college, school and department at the university established a system of academic advising. Each student is assigned to a faculty member or a professional adviser who serves as his or her adviser. After a student establishes their desired major and path for their typical four years in college, the adviser helps the student use their degree check sheet to determine the classes taken and the classes needed to efficiently obtain their degree.

"I studied abroad during my junior year in England. Registration my senior year was very important because I knew most of my classes that I needed to take to graduate would be difficult to get into because of the high student demand in my department. Unfortunately, I did not receive any notifications, emails or instructions about registration for the spring 2011 semester. I had to find out about registration through Facebook," said

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## PLAZA

continued from A1

Uptown Greenville requested of Five Points Plaza construction plan to be included in the Redevelopment Commission's Master Plan and was approved as the "Open Air Market Initiative" in June 2008.

Uptown Greenville Executive Director Denise Walsh further added, "Uptown Greenville is working to revitalize the heart of our community. One way to help do this is to have great public spaces within the district for people to gather, hold community events and create an attractive space year round."

During the Greenville Redevelopment Commission meeting in January 2009, Walsh reported that according to an online survey, the top reasons people visit Greenville are the restaurants, special events, shopping and business. Furthermore, the farmers' market was the top interest for an activity in the Sixth Street lot followed by lively musical performances and outdoor movies. It was also reported from the survey, 93 percent of the surveyors indicated that they were inclined to visit other businesses in Greenville when coming to an event such as Freeboot Friday.

With the goal to create a community-friendly place along with a comfortable image, the use of the public space will increase property values, which will benefit and revitalize the economy with an easy accessibility where different activities engage at a social place.

Five Points Plaza is expected to significantly enhance Uptown Greenville, improving the economy and providing more social benefits, as well as promoting the community's health, happiness and wellbeing.

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

## GRE

continued from A1

goes quickly; it takes about three hours to complete. The new GRE will be much more of a test of endurance, lasting nearly four hours. The current GRE forces you to answer the question in front of you, and you cannot change your answers once you've confirmed them. The new GRE allows you the flexibility to move around within a section and to change your answers within a section," said Weiss.

In addition to these changes, the new GRE will change the manner in which questions are presented to students based on difficulty. Presently, questions only increase in difficulty as students choose correct answers, but the new test will see questions get progressively harder based on students' performance in each section of the test.

The test's math sections will also be modified in several ways. Students will now be able to use an on-screen calculator for these sections if they need it and the test will involve less geometry and focus more on data analysis.

Senior Burnie Best believes that schools need to be very active in promoting the news about the changes to the test to ease the transition for students who might have to take both tests.

"Schools need to be telling students about the changes because if students aren't careful, they might prepare for the test using old books and waste a lot of money having to take the test again," he said.

Students interested in seeing the format of the new test can find sample exams on testchange.com as well as kaplanpracticetest.com.

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

## DRAG

continued from A1

munity adviser five years ago for GLBTSU; he always encouraged the group to get themselves out into the community, on campus and in Greenville. Once he left the organization, some years later they asked if he would host the first drag show. As someone who firmly believes in giving back to the community, he accepted and now performs at every show.

As a way to show support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, students attend the shows. The objective of the shows is to educate and entertain students about this aspect of the community. People can perform in a drag show without being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. Straight people are more than welcome into the community to perform and for support.

Matt Lovelace, senior finance and religious studies major, said it was an awesome, life-changing experience that he would not change for the world.

The amateurs who were in the show were all students; this was a way to give the students who are interested an opportunity to perform but without the pressure of performing at an Amateur Night downtown. Christopher Sprouse, freshman costume design major, performed as Oceana Sky in a duet with his friend Gina Arket, who is also a freshman and performed as Rocko Maverick. The two performed Nicki Minaj's "Roman's Revenge."

When Sprouse was asked why he chose to perform at the show, he said, "In high school I always wanted to perform and dance. I saw this as an opportunity to perform outside of my comfort zone. I found out a lot about myself and my gender by performing at drag shows; I never thought that I would do something like this, but here I am."

Arket said that she has always liked drag shows and she thought it would be a fun experience.

The GLBTSU was first founded in April 1994 as B-GLAD and changed to the name they have now to include the transgendered people in the title. The organization has about 200 members with 40 to 50 members in attendance at the weekly meetings in Mendenhall.

President Katy Ross will pass the baton to Alex Anders for the next term. "I would not resign as president if I did not believe that he could do it."

For anyone interested in seeing more drag shows, Michelle and her friends perform every Wednesday and Friday at Paradise Night Club.

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

## ADVISING continued from A1

senior Mariam Quadri.

According to the university's website, the name of each student's currently assigned academic adviser is available on the Student Information page in Banner Self Service. If students do not have an assigned adviser for their particular program of study, the university has a list of advisers for each academic advising department.

"The two advisers that I have been assigned since I transferred to ECU a year ago seemed to be lost when it came to the transfer-student process. All the questions I asked never got an exact answer. I think ECU is a great campus and community, but the technical difficulties and the confusion with transfer credits and students makes the registration process a lot harder. I think more guidance from advisers to transfer students would help them be more successful in their career here," said Brown.

The university has an articulation agreement that lets advisers recognize the specific classes students took at a two-year institution before they transferred and helps grant students specific course work needed to get their undergraduate degree. "It does seem like a lot of transfer students have one or two

classes, that when they are evaluated, advisers don't know what to do with them. Students can get departmental approval and grant additional course credit," said Cabacar.

"Any classes that didn't transfer in or the student doesn't agree with what credit you were given, the student can always go directly to that department and have the specific department evaluate the syllabus to see if additional course credit can be granted or specific course name and number can be granted. Those courses are called transfer by title," said Cabacar. "Transfer students can have a challenging time when they transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year institution."

The advising process was established to help connect students with their major and their adviser by essentially continuing the same student with the same adviser for the students' entire college career. But with over 25,000 students enrolled at ECU and the few hundred advisers makes it seemingly impossible to make the advising process personal and beneficial to the adviser or the student.

"I have had four different advisers over my four years at ECU," said communication major Quadri. "It has made it difficult to have a

connection with an adviser and talk about class options for future semesters."

Advisers at the university also act as full-time instructors, making the process of advising more stressful and complicated.

"Ideally, the School of Communication wants all communication students advised by full-time academic advisers," said Cabacar. She added that when students come to the university, they will get one adviser that will stick with them until graduation.

Two factors have left the communication department's advising staff with no choice other than supplying students with various advisers for their college careers -- "The turnover and budget cuts," said Cabacar. "Two years ago, the communication department had three full-time advisers who handled all the advising for the School of Communication."

Full-time academic advisers are available during office hours for students with any questions or concerns at the Academic Advising and Support Center located in the Old Cafeteria Complex.

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

## Engineering department receives NSF funding

Cameron Gupton  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The National Science Foundation will begin funding scholarships for engineering students at ECU and will underwrite critical student research and collaboration with national scholars.

The NSF has awarded the engineering department a \$600,000 grant that will support the research and scholarships. The money comes in the form of a five-year grant.

The NSF Science, Technology, Engineering and Math project awards grants to the university to support students pursuing bachelor's or graduate degrees in science or engineering and are academically talented and express financial need.

According to Evelyn Brown, the writer of the grant and the associate dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the College of Technology and Computer Science, said \$540,000 of the grant will be used to fund scholarships for incoming freshmen in engineering in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

"All of the other scholarships (that were awarded previously) were not for freshmen but for upperclassmen," said Brown. "This is a first. They can maintain their award all four years as long as they meet the award criteria."

Brown said that the NSF will provide the first three years of the scholarships, and separate funds raised by the engineering advisory board through scholarship drives and other funding from the university will provide the fourth year of education for the students receiving the grant money.

"The participants must be from North Carolina," said Brown. "They will participate in seminars, internships and visit local high schools to talk about engineering."

David White, dean of Technology and Computer Science, feels that the grant really credits the work of the department.

"This funding represents the acknowledgement by NSF of our excellent engineering program."

Cristina Duluc, a biology major, said she feels this will open a lot of opportunities to students and to the engineering department.

"I think it's a great opportunity for the engineering students," said Duluc. "I don't know of many scholarships for engineering students, so anything that ECU can do for them is good."

This specific grant given to the university focuses on expanding engineering in the rural eastern part of the state and the research the grant supports will spotlight how students learn engineering.

According to Hayden Griffin, this is a milestone for the engineering department, which is only in its seventh year. Griffin is the department chair of engineering. "It will be an asset for the program, helping address financial need and open additional academic doors for students," said Hayden in a release made by the department.

"It is an amazing opportunity for talented North Carolina students who lack financial means to attend ECU and earn an engineering degree that will prepare them well for a successful career," Griffin said.

Senior Mark Viele, a construction management major, said that he thinks the grant will bring more new students to the department.

"I feel that the scholarships will attract a lot of intelligent people to the engineering program," stated Viele.

Those chosen to receive the scholarship will work closely with the university's Noyce Scholars, a scholarship also funded by an NSF grant.

A board of advisers made up of faculty from ECU, Michigan Tech, Purdue, Virginia Commonwealth and Virginia Tech will oversee the project.

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

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

Props to the boys who dropped both their cases of beer in the intersection between Copper Beech and Pirate's Cove and then proceeded to pick up every single can scattered across the road, dodging cars like it was a sport! Only at ECU!

When bath salts are outlawed only outlaws will have bath salts!

Am I the only one in Greenville/ECU that is realizing the longer I'm here, the more I just generally don't like people?

To the person who ran their truck into the Red Cross van: I saw you. We all saw you.

Shut up and do Sudoku together outside of class on your own time. That is probably why you two keep getting awful grades on every easy test we have.

Friends don't let friends submit Pirate Rants while angry.

Sorry, but blasting heavy metal in a convertible bug doesn't make you seem any manlier.

Seeing the parking enforcement people parked illegally reminds me how prevalent double standards are on this campus.

If only 24 out of more than 100 students get your questions right shouldn't that say something about your teaching methods? Just sayin'.

It's so cute that you are sexting eight different guys right now. NOT.

Hurry up, May 5! I'm ready to get as far away from my roommates as possible!

To the guy walking with his friends who said directed at me "I think I had sex with her." Ew. No. Never would I have sex with someone who looks like you. SORRY.

I hate when people come to the 3rd floor of the library just to talk. It's 75 degrees and sunny out! Why are you here?

I stole half the food set out at the Rec Center for Eating Disorder Awareness Month. At least now I am perfectly aware that I don't have an eating disorder.

Life is like a box of chocolates. Right when things start getting good, you run out.

Dear boy and girl who were escorted out of the movie theater for having sex on the front row floor: Thank you. Your sexual embarrassment was more entertaining than the movie I was watching.

As much as I love my microscopic shorts, I really hate the stares I get while wearing them. They make me think my zipper is unzipped.

You know it's kinda sad the only time you come in the gym is to get a smoothie.

I had a dream I broke up with my boyfriend, and when I woke up, I wished it wasn't a dream.

Chris Brown recently declared that he thinks Justin Bieber reminds him of himself when he was young. Someone should probably alert Selena Gomez.

I understand you don't want anyone in the pool yet, but can you at least open the gate so I can use the beach chairs for tanning? Please?

Get it together West-End and fix the ICEE machine in Subway!

Dear roommate: Please don't leave your vibrator in the shower. At least now I know why your showers are so long!

Please clean up after yourself. When I sit down to eat lunch on campus, I don't want to see your leftovers all over the table. It only takes about 5 seconds to wipe your mess up with a napkin. If you don't want to, eat outside.

You are so pale the light from the moon would help your tan.

**More Pirate Rants on the website!**

## Not cut out for academia



**Leslie Baker**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

They're sitting in your freshmen biology class, smacking on gum, texting and Facebooking throughout the entire lecture. The only time they raise their hand is to ask, "Uhm, so, like, when's our test?" They bomb every quiz and exam, and you're pretty sure they have missed far too many days to pass the course. You wonder why they still bother showing up to annoy and distract everyone. Although they are frustrating, you are certain they will be one of the slackers weeded out. Yet, to your horror, you see them skipping into your biology class the next semester. How did they possibly pass? Will they actually graduate from the same school as you? When will ECU raise its standards? Well, they actually just did. Eh, sort of.

The university shouldn't be surprised that no one noticed the measly GPA requirement increase -- up .2 points for freshmen and .1 for sophomores. Why does ECU refuse to significantly hike up its GPA requirements? The answer may be obvious: so students will stick around.

A school wants to be known for its academic excellence, but just like any other money-making business, it wants to keep the most amount of customers for as long as possible. In university-speak, this is called a retention rate. In 2008, the average retention rate for freshmen at all of the UNC schools combined was 82.7 percent. The average rate for ECU was 78.8 percent. ECU is below average but still holding on to struggling students. Not everyone is cut out for college life.

Campuses, especially ECU, love to boast their high retention rates to prospective students and their parents. This may lead to the assumption that students are staying because they are excelling academically, when in reality it often means students aren't being held to a high enough standard.

I've often asked these students why they chose to come to ECU and usually receive the response, "I figured it was the only school I could get into." Is that what our claim to fame is? The easiest school around?

ECU has tried to make others ignore its slack requirements by boasting the number of enrolled students, which isn't really impressing anyone. Brag about how many people didn't get accepted; then we'll be impressed.

While the recent increase in the GPA requirement is a small improvement, much more needs to be done in individual classes to raise the university's academic standards.

Professors shouldn't encourage slack students by giving them tons of bonus points, curves and extra-credit projects. They should be preparing us for the competitive, unforgiving world beyond the classroom walls. Make your students work. Tell that loud, disruptive student to leave. If they don't want to be there, then they can certainly leave to make room for those who do.

Instead of High School advisors pressuring students into a university education, promote trade schools or community colleges instead. The classes are more focused and oriented on a future career. According to its website, a full-time student at Pitt Community College pays only \$904 a semester, significantly less than ECU.

We need to remember that the main goal of a student should be to learn everything possible -- not to maintain a mediocre GPA. More importantly, the goal of a university shouldn't be maintaining an embarrassingly high number of mediocre students.

This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).



ILLUSTRATED BY LOGAN WAGONER

## LET THE HATE RANTS DIE



**Chelsey McClougherty**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

You grab the latest issue of TEC and, as most students do, you turn straight to the Opinion page to start your day off with some good, juicy Pirate Rants. We love to read about the latest catfight going on anonymously through the Rants or the dirtiest secrets revealed so bluntly.

I love the Pirate Rants just as much as any other Pirate, but something has to stop. Stop all the hate! The majority of Rants submitted daily are female students "hating" on other female students' fashion choices.

I thought middle school gossip about who is wearing what was all behind us. Why are girls continuing to be their own worst enemies? Does an ECU female really have to join a sorority to ensure they really have sisters that have their back? Even sororities deal with backstabbing and teasing. Why is it that guys can be each other's brothers but girls can't seem to get it together enough to be each other's sisters? Why are girls so catty? Where is the love and the loyalty?

Every week, I read through yet another Pirate ranting about some poor girl who wore something that another didn't like and got called out for her fashion choice. One recent rant stated, "I swear that if any drop of moisture is seen, every freaking girl on campus throws on a pair of rain boots, even if it's not raining." Who cares? It makes sense to me. If it looks like it might rain, wear rain boots. That seems like a very logical reaction to wet weather.

Students forget that TEC receives a very high volume of Pirate Rants and most don't get published. It takes time to sort through all the "mean" rants that are constantly submitted. Also, let's not forget the huge "North Face Ugg Slut" gossip. We all remember those rants that started to show up for cold weather. I own a pair of Uggs and a North Face. Sometimes I even wear them at the same time and neither my shoes nor jacket turn me into a slut nor define me as one.

The brand name of your clothing does not define how promiscuous you are, so let's tuck away the "North Face Ugg Slut" name calling and act like we are in college.

So when you write a hateful Rant or post a nasty Facebook status, think

about the people you're offending first. According to The Wall Street Journal, Facebook will be offering a new feature to report suspected bullying.

So, maybe ECU will begin to implement an anti-hate campaign for our campus?

We are using the Internet to tear each other apart with drastic consequences. According to Reuters, Rutgers student Tyler Clementi committed suicide last September because his roommate posted a video online of his homosexual encounters in his dorm. While judging people based on clothing isn't as extreme, lowering self-esteem on campus may lead to terrible results.

The only people who may have a valid opinion of students' dress are the faculty. Professors may care about students showing up to classes in sweats or pajamas because some require a higher standard of dress, but when fellow students tear each other apart for fashion choices, it becomes infuriating.

We are adults now, soon to be out into the real world and will hopefully be positive members of society. Years from now, is it really going to matter if that girl in your English class wore pajamas with a top that didn't match? We all should be focusing more important things, such as studies, family or work!

So next time you want to rant about some girl's outdated wardrobe, save your comment for someone who cares, because some of us are trying to grow up and move away from this petty gossip. You don't have to be involved in Greek Life to have someone's back, just have a heart and we all can live in a more unified community. It's the time of our lives, Pirates. Don't waste it on causing drama through the school paper!

This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

Are you looney for Looney Tunes?  
For info about cartoonist positions at TEC:  
[managingeditor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:managingeditor@theeastcarolinian.com)

## Toilet paper: The unsung hero



**Ben Cochran**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Emily Dickinson once wrote "success is counted sweetest by those who ne'er succeed." Using the same logic, one could infer that comfort is most appreciated by those who rarely experience luxury.

If you're the type who only defecates amongst the royal surroundings of your own home, you might not be aware of just how underwhelmingly basic public restrooms can be. If you have a life that requires you to be on the go nonstop, then you're forced to draw an inevitable conclusion: the single-ply toilet tissue found in most campus bathrooms is coarse and vulgar.

We've all seen the ads on television about how much more effective two-ply toilet tissue is than its single-ply counterpart; it seems like everybody offers 2-ply tissue these days. Quilted Northern, Charmin, Angel Soft, Cottonelle and many others seem to have nothing but 2-ply products on the shelves of the supermarkets. It would seem as though it's almost an industry standard.

So who are the makers of the single-ply, sandpaper tissue? And why does the university seem hell-bent on offering this to us in our bathrooms?

The single-ply tissue in the campus bathrooms needs to be wrapped around what seems like three or four times to generate the same thickness as my tissue at home. So in the end, users of the campus tissue wind up using about three or four times as much paper and more. Some people use toilet paper to coat the seat and other such hygienically necessary activities. Buying the single-ply doesn't seem to lessen the cost, then.

Though the state budget is reportedly in a \$3.7 billion deficit, I think we can spare some change to upgrade the most important facilities on campus.

A double-ply tissue improves morale. We're not just crudely wiping the most distal part of our digestive tract here. We're applying comfort to our sensitive areas. The quality of tissue we use directly communicates our level of appreciation to our colon for a job well done.

Additionally, I often go to the bathrooms to use toilet tissue for blowing my nose because I'm a guy and I find it hard to grab a pink, floral print box of Kleenex off the shelf at the grocery store -- it looks like I'm buying a giant box of tampons or something. Besides, as a guy, I'm genetically hardwired to loathe spending money on any sort of personal hygiene items. Toilet paper does the trick for a nose blow unless it's barely thin enough to tear off the roll.

When forced to use the cheap stuff, we run the risk of aggravating our brown-lipped kisser to the point of injury, not to mention the accumulation of dingleberries. In her book "How to Shit Around the World: The Art of Staying Clean and Healthy While Traveling," Dr. Jane Wilson-Howarth describes how people in rural parts of the world know better: rather than using cheap toilet paper, they just use their left hand and lots of water.

While primitive in principle, the left-hand wipers of the world shouldn't be judged. In all likelihood they have no alternative. But I like to think that they are actively boycotting the use of cheap, commercial-grade toilet tissue.

I think we should take a page right out of their playbook. As college students, we should broaden our horizons and embrace the practices of other cultures. The next time we're presented with the predicament of using the university-provided paper, we should reach down there with our left hands, give it a good wipe and stick it to the man.

The university may have only provided us with single-ply tissue, but they'll never take our freedom! Demonstrate your malcontent with ECU's toilet tissue selection by using your left hand! Shake the hands of strangers and give high fives with your left hand only. When we've got a Cholera outbreak that rivals that of Haiti, maybe then the university will give in and provide us with the double-ply, quilted tissue that is proper for students attending the fastest-growing school in North Carolina!

This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

### STAFF INFORMATION

**Katelyn Crouse, Editor in Chief**

- Andrea Robertson
- Katie Bates
- Katie Hatfield
- Michael Perry
- Jennifer Soares
- Caitlin Hale
- Kelly Nurge
- Rebecca Hartman
- Eddie Burkett
- Christina Scarbel
- Samantha Eads

- Managing Editor
- Public Editor
- Production Manager
- Sports Editor
- News Editor
- Lifestyles Editor
- Opinion Editor
- Photo Editor
- Multimedia Web Editor
- Advertising Manager
- Head Copy Editor

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### Contact Info

Newsroom 252.328.9238 Fax 252.328.9143 Advertising 252.328.9245

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

## Did you know?

The first CD pressed in the United States was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA."

The Grateful Dead were once called The Warlocks.

The Mamas and the Papas were once called The Mugwumps.

The only member of the band ZZ Top to not have a beard has the last name Beard.

There is a band named A Life-Threatening Buttocks Condition.

The song with the longest title is "I'm a Cranky Old Yank in a Clanky Old Tank on the Streets of Yokohama with My Honolulu Mama Doin' Those Beat-O, Beat-O Flat-On-My-Seat-O, Hirohito Blues," written by Hoagy Carmichael. He later claimed the song title ended with "Yank" and the rest was a joke.

Tommy James got the inspiration to write his number-one hit, "Mony Mony," while he was in a New York hotel looking at the Mutual of New York building's neon sign flashing repeatedly: M-O-N-Y.

ABBA got its name by taking the first letter from each of the band members' names (Agnetha, Bjorn, Benny, and Anni-Frid).

The opera singer Enrico Caruso practiced in the bath, while accompanied by a pianist in a nearby room.

Enrico Caruso and Roy Orbison were the only tenors in the 20th century capable of hitting the note E over high C.

In every show Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt ("The Fantasticks") wrote, there was at least one song about rain.

Aerosmith's "Dude Looks Like a Lady" was written about Vince Neil of Motley Crue.

Andy Warhol created The Rolling Stones' emblem depicting the big tongue. It first appeared on the cover of the "Sticky Fingers" album.

"Happy Birthday to You" is the most often sung song in America.

Kermit the Frog was named after Kermit Scott, a childhood friend of Jim Henson's, who became a professor of philosophy at Purdue University. Kermit has 11 points on the collar around his neck and is left-handed.

Miss Piggy's measurements are 27-20-36.

The actor who played Wedge in the original Star Wars trilogy has a famous nephew: actor Ewan McGregor, who plays young Obi-Wan in the new Star Wars trilogy. Darth Vader is the only officer in the Imperial Forces who doesn't have a rank.

In the "Return of the Jedi" special edition, during the new Coruscant footage at the end of the film, a storm trooper can be seen being carried over the crowds.

Four people played Darth Vader: David Prowse was his body, James Earl Jones did the voice, Sebastian Shaw was his face, and a fourth person did his breathing.

Luke Skywalker's last name was changed at the last minute from Starkiller to make it less violent.

The name of Jabba the Hutt's pet spider monkey is Salacious Crumb.

More bullets were fired in "Starship Troopers" than in any other movie ever made.

The famous theme ostensibly from "Dragnet" was actually composed by Miklos Rosza for the 1946 film noir classic "The Killers."

## Experience the 'World of Jenks'

Filmmaker and MTV star Andrew Jenks visits ECU

**Hunter Ingram**  
STAFF WRITER

Very few people look at life from an angle other than their own, but for Andrew Jenks, it's what he does every day.

In 2010, documentary filmmaker Andrew Jenks was approached by MTV to create a television series that allowed him to utilize his passion for filmmaking by documenting the lives of young people in America; an opportunity that he found intriguing. "I was very interested in the thought of going out and seeing what life was like for different people around my age," said Jenks. And that's exactly what he did.

On Tuesday, the Student Activities Board Films Committee welcomed Andrew Jenks to ECU's campus to talk about his inspiring MTV "docu-series," what it's like to have such a unique job and what experiences he has had because of it.

On "World of Jenks," Jenks documents the lives of a diverse group of young people by living with each one for a week and telling their story through the unique aspects of their lives. During the first season, Jenks lived with a variety of people, ranging from rapper Maino to a 21-year-old man living with autism to a high school football player to MMA fighter Anthony "Showtime" Pettis to a young homeless woman, to name a few.

Finding these "subjects" is a process in itself, according to Jenks. "I don't go out looking for people who want to be on television," said Jenks, "but I do love finding that needle in a haystack."

After each week of filming, Jenks said that he usually has, on average, 140 hours of footage that he has to then edit down to 19.5 minutes, which is the length of his show after commercials. As one can imagine, this process is not an easy one.

One aspect of his show that he is very familiar with is the process of immersing himself in his subject's environment. In 2005, at the age of 19, Jenks moved into a Florida assisted living home for the summer to film the lives of the senior citizens who lived there. "I wanted to know what life was like for those who had lived it the longest," said Jenks. "And I have not looked at senior citizens the same way since."

The film, entitled "Andrew Jenks: Room 335," was eventually bought by HBO Films and was aired in countries around the world, gaining critical acclaim, which resulted in even bigger opportunities for Jenks down the line.

After the success of his first film, Jenks pitched an idea to ESPN Films about making a movie on the life of Bobby Valentine, a former MLB manager who now coaches a baseball team in Japan. ESPN loved the idea and gave Jenks and two friends

\$1 million to spend the entire season with Valentine and his team in Japan, filming the documentary. Like his first film, "The Zen of Bobby V" was loved by critics after it aired on ESPN in 2008.

Jenks's love of filmmaking was sculpted at a young age as a result of his family's frequent moves. "We would live in countries where they didn't speak English, so I would spend my time going around filming random things," said Jenks, "and because of that, my camera became almost like my best friend."

Nowadays, Jenks is busy working on the second season of his MTV show, which he says will be a little different this time around. "For our second season, we are going to focus on four people and follow them around for the entire season, instead of having a new person each episode like season one," said Jenks. He revealed to the audience on Tuesday that Chad, the young man living with autism that was featured in season one, will be returning as one of the four.

Jenks is also currently touring the country and visiting college campuses to talk to fans of the show and college students in general. "The one thing about being on a TV show is that you don't get to engage with the fans," said Jenks. "And by visiting colleges, I get to do that, which is really cool."

Beyond his current plans, not even he knows what's next. Jenks said that he has written dozens of movie and TV scripts and hopes to continue making movies. However, he does know what his first feature film will be about. "I was really moved by my research into homeless young people, so I really want to work on a movie about that," said Jenks. He plans on titling the movie "Hobo."

It's no question that Andrew Jenks is living the life that so many aspiring filmmakers dream of and not even he knows what the next step is. But one thing is for certain: with his unique appreciation for life and his determination to capture its great moments, Andrew Jenks and his camera are going to be creating inspiring works of art for many years to come.

This writer can be contacted at [lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com).

Andrew Jenks, from 'World of Jenks', visited campus Tuesday.



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## The Global Classroom's newest addition: Kufa University in Iraq



CASEY BOONE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students in ECU's Global Classroom chatted with students from Kufa University in Iraq earlier this week.

ECU and Kufa are planning several projects together

**Katey Warren**  
STAFF WRITER

Students, faculty and leaders of the Global Academic Initiatives program are celebrating the addition of their newest international partner, Kufa University in Iraq.

The Global Academic Initiatives program is an effort to bring global experience to campus and has grown since its start in 2004. The program now includes a series of international lectures as well as several global understanding courses that connect students and faculty with those of more than 30 other participating institutions in more than 20 countries.

Rosina Chia and Elmer

Poe, founders of the Global Understanding course, believe the addition of Kufa University, which was recently named the No. 1 university in Iraq, to the program will provide an immense learning opportunity for all parties involved. They believe it will allow students and faculty on campus, as well as students and faculty at Kufa, to see each other from a very different perspective.

"In this day and age, we see so many stories of the fighting, so it's very important for our students to get to know the Iraqi people and understand Iraq today," Chia said. "I thought this was a very good opportunity to learn firsthand about the Iraqi people."

Chia says that ECU is taking on a number of different projects with Kufa, which will all take place through video confer-

ences. One of these projects, the Brody Lecture Series, is allowing doctors from the Brody School of Medicine to give lectures to the medical students at Kufa. Dr. Richard Zeri kicked off this lecture series at the beginning of March, and Chia believes this project is "going very well," especially because "they do a lot of surgery in Iraq."

The universities are also in the works of developing a construction project, which will allow faculty from the construction management department to give lectures and advice to those in Iraq hoping to rebuild several of Kufa's buildings that have been damaged by bombs.

A third project, which is the addition of Kufa University to the Global Understanding course, will launch next semester. Kufa will be one of three international partners that stu-

dents enrolled in the course will connect with via video conferencing and online chat.

Jami Leibowitz, a professor and leader of the Global Understanding course, is excited about the addition of this university to the course. She hopes that the connections between the universities will provide both parties with a greater and more personalized understanding of each other.

"There really is an intrigue about Iraq because we do have this very recent history with them," Leibowitz said. "We have these preconceived ideas about what life is like (for students in Iraq), and we don't personalize with them."

Students enrolled in the Global Understanding course next semester will connect with Kufa University students studying English for part of the semes-

ter, discussing a variety of topics ranging from college life and family to the meaning of life and stereotypes.

"The students there are bright and very articulate, and they're anxious to share their ideas," Poe said recently to a group of students celebrating the addition of Kufa to the program at a midnight event on campus. "English is their second language, so (students) have to listen carefully and fill in the blanks to understand what they're trying to say."

At this event, a group of students from Kufa shared some of the questions they had for American students. These curiosities included how students divide time between studying and socializing, what types of holidays students celebrate, what students prepare to do post-graduation and what types of activities students participate in with their classes.

When asked "What is the most important aspect of your education," one Kufa University student, studying education and English, responded that she hopes "to travel outside of Iraq and be a good influence for the future," as well as be an influence on making the English language taught in earlier stages of students' learning careers.

Though the video conferencing planned for this event experienced technical difficulties, which cut the communication between the groups short, many students from both ECU and Kufa expressed interest and excitement for the new partnership.

All students are welcome and encouraged to register to take the Global Understanding course, which will include links with Kufa next semester. According to Poe, "There are a lot of opportunities for students to get involved in the Global Classroom."

This writer can be contacted at [lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com).

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## Former Pirates perform in Pro Timing Day

### ECU Media Relations

Fourteen ECU football players who completed their collegiate eligibility following the 2010 season went through a series of drills and workouts at Wednesday's annual Pro Timing Day. Scouts from various National Football League franchises attended the event to get an up-close look at the former Pirates.

To begin the afternoon, each player's official hand size, arm length, height and weight were measured inside the Murphy Center. Testing was then initiated as players participated in the broad jump, vertical leap and bench press.

When the session moved outside to the Cliff Moore Practice Facility and Hight Field, the running and agility portions of the workout took place. The players had their times in the 40-yard dash, short shuttle, three-cone drill and long shuttle clocked.

Position-specific drills for ECU's former wide receivers, defensive backs and running backs concluded the testing.

## Baseball sets Little League Day for Saturday

### ECU Media Relations

The ECU Athletics office has announced that Saturday, March 26, has been designated as Little League Day at Lewis Field inside Clark-LeClair Stadium.

All youth who take part in Little League baseball are invited to attend a free clinic by head baseball coach Billy Godwin and current members of the Pirates' baseball team beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Clark-LeClair Stadium. Campers are encouraged to bring their gloves and bats to the one-hour clinic.

Saturday afternoon, any child who wears his or her little league jersey to the 3 p.m. game against Memphis will receive free admission when accompanied by an adult. They will also have the opportunity to take the field with the Pirate baseball players for the National Anthem. Adults who attend the game with their child are eligible for a special promotion rate of \$3 per ticket.

Tickets can be purchased in advance online at ECU Pirates.com or at the Clark-LeClair Ticket Office starting at 1 p.m. Saturday.

## Defense plans to change to 3-4 system in 2011

### ECU Media Relations

The ECU football team will also use spring practice period as an opportunity to address a defense, which struggled to replace nine lost starters and dealt with three key season-ending injuries in 2010. Although the Pirates will return seven starters this spring, second-year head coach Ruffin McNeill announced his unit will move from a traditional 4-3 to a 3-4 scheme — an installation which he deemed a personnel move.

"What prompted the move were the kinds of players we want to recruit at East Carolina combined with the players who are already on campus," he noted. "We like having four guys on the field who are able to stand up, move around and play the linebacker position. Some people think a 3-4 team is always in a 3-4 look, but that's a misnomer. You still have to use four down linemen in some instances, especially in this league where teams like to spread the football around."

"The 3-4 scheme sets our players up for success. It will allow us to be more versatile against our opponents and what they are trying to accomplish offensively." ECU will return to the practice complex Wednesday as part of a Monday-Wednesday-Friday-Saturday workout schedule during the next four weeks. After planning on spending its first two practice sessions in shorts and shells, McNeill indicated ECU would conduct its first pad workout Friday to begin preparation efforts for scrimmages April 2 and April 9 prior to the playing of the annual spring game April 16.

# PIRATE NINE PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE PLAY



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Catcher Zach Wright (left), freshman right hander Austin Chrismon (center), and pitching coach Dan Roszel have an in game mound meeting during play against Buffalo last week. The tilt marked Chrismon's first career start.

## Adam Bunn ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After a very successful beginning to the season, the ECU baseball Pirates will start a whole different kind of season this weekend as they begin conference play with a three-game weekend series against Memphis.

The Pirates will enter conference play boasting a 16-4 record, including a 5-0 record last week and a victory over a nationally ranked Virginia team in Charlottesville, Va., early in the year.

ECU hasn't been perfect this year in all aspects of the game but has been pretty close to that mark.

At the plate, the Pirates are led by first baseman Corey Thompson in batting average, as he is batting .338, adding 14 RBIs and earning a team-high 11 walks.

But, this season hasn't been all roses for Thompson, as he has suffered slumps just like any other big-time hitter. Last week, Thompson had a three-game stretch where he hit a combined 2-8 with no RBIs.

Down on himself about his past performance, Thompson got some much-needed words of wisdom from his coaching staff.

"The coaches brought me in and told me not to worry about it," Thompson said of his meeting with the coaches. "Just keep hitting the ball hard. The game eventually evens out."

Inspired by that meeting, Thompson responded by having his best game of the season on Sunday in a win over Rutgers. Thompson went 2-4 at the plate while also driving in four runs.

Thompson hasn't been the only Pirate struggling to find his swing, as the Pirate offense has been suspect through the early part of the season. Like Thompson, however, everyone seemed to find their swings, resulting in a cumulative series batting average of over .300.

The biggest concern for the Pirate offense this season has been the lack of power produced by the ECU hitters. Last season, if the Pirates needed a big home run or a long double, the man to turn to was designated hitter Kyle Roller. But with Roller gone and the new bats that have been mandated by the NCAA, that power has been absent.

BASEBALL page A7

# FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR MEN'S HOOPS

## Jordan Anders STAFF WRITER

It's been just over a week since the final horn sounded on ECU's loss to Jacksonville in the first round of the CollegeInsider.com Invitational Tournament. But while the echoes of dribbling basketballs and roaring crowds have since faded out of Minges Coliseum, the season that Jeff

Lebo and his guys put together will likely be talked about right up until they hit the hardwood again.

First-year head coach Lebo came in to this season with a tough row to hoe. ECU basketball had been in the toilet for over a decade, but Lebo, who has built winners out of rubble at every job prior, was undaunted

by the prospect of trying to bring respectability back to Pirate basketball. His enthusiasm and proven background gave ECU basketball a spark it had not seen since the 1990s.

Fast-forward to four months later and the Pirates have just completed their best season in 14 years. It is clear that the effects of the success experienced by the Pirates this season will have a lasting effect on the future of the program. We've all read about the milestones that ECU eclipsed this season, but they are worth mentioning again:

The 18 wins this season are tied for the second-most recorded by an ECU basketball team, and the most since 1995.

The 18-16 overall record for the year makes this season the first winning season for ECU basketball since 1997.

The 8-8 Conference USA regular-season record marks the first non-losing season in conference play since ECU moved to C-USA in 2001.

ECU's two victories in the C-USA tournament make it the first time the Pirates have ever advanced past the first round of the tournament.

The CIT appearance is the first postseason appearance of any kind for ECU since making the NCAA Tournament back in 1993.

While those milestones denote a fantastic season, what they may not entirely portray is the fight that the Pirates put forth every single time they took the court. Five times this season, the team lost games by fewer than five points. They



DAN WILLET | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sophomore guard Erin Straughn dribbles from a Jacksonville defender during CIT action. Straughn is one of the young players who will anchor the Pirates in seasons to come.

BASKETBALL page A7



## Lorianna Whitford STAFF WRITER

# STEWART LEADS SWIMMERS TO SUCCESSFUL SEASON

ECU's swimming and diving season has officially come to a close. Led by senior Jenna Stewart, the Pirates finished their season by securing second place at the Conference USA championship in Texas a few weeks ago.

Stewart brought home first place in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle. Stewart is the first Lady Pirate to win the 100-yard freestyle since 1995. In her four years as a Pirate, Stewart has impressed her audience by not only breaking records in the women's sprint events, but by continuing to break her own records during her senior season.

"It feels absolutely amazing," Stewart said, as she then continued to give credit to those who have helped her achieve those goals. "We have girls like Kelsey Brosi, who have really helped to push my limits in practice and in training."

The transition from high school to college is a big step for athletes. Stewart explained how she had to learn to manage her time and use her strict swimming practice schedule to keep her on the track to success in the classroom and in the water.

"My first semester here as a freshman was my worst semester academically. I had to learn to take advantage of the tutors offered to athletes and organize my time between a busy practice schedule and classes. Being part of a team has really taught me how to organize my time to the best of my ability."

When asked what she would miss most about swimming for ECU, there was no doubt in her mind on what that would be.

"The competition," Stewart said. "I am not one to love the everyday grind of practice and training, but I thrive on the competition."

Head Coach Rick Kobe talked about Stewart's role on the swim team.

"She was one of our stars for four years. She was the closest to getting into the NCAA Championship and missed it by only two-tenths of a second," Kobe said. "She swam for coach Jabs, our sprint coach, and he did a great job with her. She was very talented to begin with so we knew that we had a good one. When I was recruiting her, I knew that she was going to do a great job here and she did. Year in and year out, we could always count on her."

As a child life major, Stewart plans to work in a hospital or clinical setting working to improve the life of children and teens with different illnesses and diseases. This summer, she has an internship working in her field of study at a children's hospital in Northern Virginia. After Stewart completes her last few classes in the fall, she hopes to get a job working as a child

SWIM page A7

# EARLY PLAYOFF PREDICTIONS

Bulls, Lakers and the 'big three' highlight fourth quarter stretch

## OPINION



Alex Serkes  
STAFF WRITER

With one of the most boring and unappealing March Madnests in recent memory, annoying labor talks regarding the NFL and spring training games sporadically shown on ESPN, sports fans have had to turn to NBA basketball for their daily sports entertainment.

However, now that Kevin Love's historic double-double streak has been snapped, the "Big Three" has started playing like a team. Blake Griffin hasn't given us the awe-inspiring dunks that the first half brought us and more focus has been directed toward the road to

the playoffs and the end of the NBA regular season.

It is clear some teams have locked themselves in as the first five seeds in the East and West; however, the question remains: Which of those teams will separate themselves from the rest? Which of those bottom three seeds can make a strong run in the playoffs like Golden State in 2008, and of those final seeds, who will make the cut and who will fall just short?

With roughly three weeks left in the NBA regular season, the playoff picture is starting to take its form as we the fans prepare for the madness after March that is the NBA playoffs. Before we get into who's hot, who's not, who's in and who's out, let's go over a few late-season accolades as we see who the front-runners are for the NBA's most coveted awards.

While the Most Valuable Player Award is still up for debate with several weeks left to go in the season, the three all-stars that are being highly considered for the award, Derrick Rose, LeBron James and Dwight Howard, are certainly worthy of the notoriety. All three

average over 23 points per game, although James leads the way with 26.4. Dwight Howard is the leading rebounder in the group, averaging 14.3, and Rose leads the way in assists of the group with 7.8 per game. Although, when you combine the overall stats together, you have to give the award to Rose. Remember, it's the "Most Valuable Player," and Rose has put the Bulls and the city of Chicago on his back, turning them into arguably the best team in the Eastern conference.

The Defensive Player of the Year, Most Improved Player and Rookie of the Year Awards are no-brainers here. Dwight Howard once again leads the league in blocks per game and turnovers forced, putting him atop the defensive players of the league once again. Kevin Love jumped out of the back of people's minds with his historic double-double streak. He has given the dismal city of Minneapolis a chance for hope and is easily the NBA's most improved player.

And is it any shock that Blake Griffin will most likely take home the Rookie of the Year Award? Despite great rookie play from the likes of John Wall, Landry Fields and Greg Monroe, Blake Griffin has separated himself from the field. Griffin averages 23 points and 12 rebounds per game, and of course he has the ability to light up the crowd with his highlight-reel dunks.

Aside from the late-season accolades, the big question on the minds of the fans is what teams will sneak into the playoffs. It's a no-brainer that in the West you have the Spurs, the Lakers and the Dallas Mavericks as the clear-cut top three. Call

me crazy, but the Spurs are the best team in the NBA, and don't be surprised to see Duncan, Manu and Parker back in the NBA finals this year. The East will most likely picture Chicago, Boston and Miami leading the way, but there seems to be more uncertainty in the East. Will the Knicks be able to shake off the late-season woes and fend off Philadelphia for the sixth seed? Can the Pacers hold on to the gutter spot eighth place, with Milwaukee and Charlotte lurking not too far behind? All these questions will be answered in the next couple of weeks. Surprisingly, it appears that the Denver Nuggets, with the blockbuster Carmelo deal, will make the playoffs with a higher seed than their antagonist, the New York Knicks.

For the Wizards, Cavaliers, Timberwolves and other unfortunate teams of the league, hopefully they are taking this time to cover the NCAA Tournament; they might get lucky come April and earn a bid toward the likes of Kyrie Irving, Harrison Barnes, Perry Jones or Jared Sullinger in the NBA Draft.

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

**HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE SPORTS SECTION? CONTACT THE SPORTS EDITOR AT SPORTS@THEEASTCAROLINIAN.COM**

## BASEBALL continued from A6

Trying to make up for this down year in power is catcher Zach Wright. With six home runs on the season, Wright leads the ball club with only three other Pirates having hit a home run (Philip Clark, Chris Gosik, Chase McDonald with one each).

The real strength of this Pirate club has been the pitching. In fact, the Pirates' pitching staff is ranked sixth in the nation in combined ERA, with a team ERA of 1.87. ECU sits behind just Louisville, Virginia, UCLA and Texas A&M.

The Pirates have put together a fantastic two-man rotation in Mike Wright and Seth Maness, as those two have combined for a 6-1 record with a 1.94 ERA. Maness is without a doubt the No. 1 starter, having pitched the most innings, struck out the most batters and has thrown the only complete game of the Pirates' season.

While the top two in the rotation seem to be solidified, the Sunday and midweek starting spot has been up for grabs from the beginning of the season on.

The two pitchers who are in the hunt for that position are Zach Woods and Kevin Brandt. Woods, a freshman, had early success but has fallen off since having a 4.40 ERA in 14 innings pitched. Meanwhile, Brandt has been riding a hot streak of late, coming off the best start of his career by pitching seven shutout innings while also grabbing 12 strikeouts.

The bullpen has been no less than amazing this year and is led by standout Brad Mincey, who has not allowed a run since early in the season on his way to a 0.44 ERA. Closing out games for the Pirates is Seth Simmons, who just recently became the Pirates' all-time saves leader.

As the Pirates prepare to begin conference play, it's important to note that this isn't the same conference that it has been in recent years.

For years, Rice was the dominant team in Conference USA, easily making their way through conference season and becoming a regular participant in the college World Series annual trip to Omaha.

That has changed as Rice stands at just 13-9, good for the bottom half of the league entering conference play. At the top stands Southern Miss and the Pirates, while Marshall and Houston remain as the two bottom dwellers of the league.

Memphis is an interesting team, as they are not one of the best teams in the league, but they are also not one of the worst.

The Tigers seem to always be in the middle of the pack, just on the edge of being one of the great teams in the conference.

The Tigers are an offensive team, as they have three players at the top of their order who are batting over .350. Chad Zurcher leads the team with a .452 average while batting in 13 runs. Drew Martinez is second with a .366 average, while Phillip Chapman holds down the third position with a .362 average.

The pitching rotation is more settled than the Pirates, as three pitchers have started 15 of the Pirates' 17 total games. Ryan Holland is the ace with a 3.18 ERA and a 3-2 record in 34 innings pitched. Dan Langfield holds a 3.21 ERA with a 2-1 record in 28 innings pitched, while Clayton Gant holds a 4.33 ERA with a 3-1 record in 27 innings.

The Pirates and the Tigers will begin their three-game weekend set in Greenville at 6 p.m. Friday night.

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

## BASKETBALL continued from A6

had opportunities to win many more than the 18 games that they wound up winning. The fact that the Pirates were actually in games this season is arguably more important than how many they actually won. Being competitive again really stirred Pirate Nation from its basketball indifference and rekindled interest that brought out the crowds and made Minges a great place for a team to play its home games.

The fact that the Pirates put together the kind of season they did while learning the nuances of a first-year head coach is a testament to the heart and the desire to win of the players and also to the coaching ability of Lebo himself. Now they must turn their attention to next season, because November isn't all that far away.

The coaching staff will have to make up for the loss of three of their top four scorers from this season. With Jontae Sherrod, Jamar Abrams and Brock Young all graduating, the Pirates will have to turn to rising senior Darrius Morrow, who became an absolute monster inside during the stretch run of this season.

Morrow closed the season with four straight double-doubles and was named to the all-tournament team at the C-USA tournament. He seemed to be hitting his stride as the season came to a close, and he will have to use his veteran experience to his advantage when the Pirates return to action in the fall, as he can expect to be looked upon to carry the team.

That story, though, will have to wait for November. As for wrapping the 2010-2011 season, it has been a banner one for ECU men's basketball. The Pirates showed a little grit in proving that they are no longer a joke in C-USA. Jeff Lebo and his group have instilled pride in ECU basketball again. They rejuvenated the entire program and brought Pirate Nation back out to Minges to cheer on their team.

They have the Pirates' basketball ship pointed in the right direction.

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

## SWIM continued from A6

life specialist in a hospital.

Not only did Stewart express great gratitude toward her teammates and coaches, she gave great thanks to her parents who came from her native state of Florida to support her at every swim meet during her senior season.

As the Pirates begin their post-season morning workouts, they look toward the next season. Graduating 13 talented seniors, the swim team will welcome 12 new recruits in the fall of 2011 in hopes of filling the shoes of some of the successful seniors like Stewart who worked to continue the ECU swim team's tradition of success.

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

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**EDITOR**  
*Buccaneer Yearbook*

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Close to ECU: 2711 East 2nd Street- 2BR/1BA duplex; 1103 East 4th Street- 3BR/1.5BA duplex; 110 West 11th Street- 2BR/1BA house. Stove and refrigerator included in all units. Contact Wainright Property Management at 252-756-6209 or visit [www.rentinggreenville.com](http://www.rentinggreenville.com)

Walk to ECU! 3BR house at 113 E. 9th Street. Recently remodeled. Available now. Pets OK with fee. \$750/month. Other properties available soon. Call 252-902-9686.

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**CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The ECU Public Health Organization's Relay for Life team is conducting a "percentage night" tonight (Thursday) at Winslow's Deli from 4:00-7:00pm. Everyone who dines there during that time period and has a voucher will have 10% of their bill donated to Relay For Life. Please request a voucher by emailing [holcombs02@students.ecu.edu](mailto:holcombs02@students.ecu.edu)

"Voices Against Violence" event on Wednesday, March 30th at 6:30pm in Mendenhall's Hendrix Theatre. Sponsored by Voices for Victims and the Office of Victim Services. Contact [molhans@ecu.edu](mailto:molhans@ecu.edu) for more info.

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