

**OPINION:** I think the acceptance letter for ECU should come with an eye patch. **A4**

**LIFESTYLES:** The LGBT Resource Office recently opened on campus. Turn to Lifestyles to find out what their objectives are for the upcoming year. **A5**

**SPORTS:** The NFL Draft is just 16 days away. Turn to sports to check out the two feuding opinions and mock drafts of Alex Serkes and Chase Kroll. **A8**

**SGA campaigning begins**

**Jamitress Bowden**  
STAFF WRITER

The race for Student Government Association positions is underway and unpredictable until voting ends at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 15.

The positions of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and senate seats (which includes representatives from each class level and each college) are all up for election. Campaigning began on April 11 after the 5:30 p.m. compulsory meeting, but with the lack of campaigning materials, most are not even aware that an election is afoot.

"I feel like I do not know enough about the candidates in order to make an informed decision. Once I find out more about the candidates, I will feel comfortable voting. More campaigning, mostly flyers are needed," said Ryan Harris, a freshman communications major.

This year, there are two tickets running for election. One ticket consists of Joshua Carter for president, Rachel Backer for vice president, Heather Wiles for secretary and Travis Poole for treasurer. The other ticket includes Josh Martinkovic for president, Daniel Thornton for vice president, Chelsea Roach for secretary and Justin Davis for treasurer.

Campaigning has strict rules provided by the Student Government Association Elections Committee. For example, all candidates are not allowed to come within 25 feet of the boundaries around the polling site; despite the mass polling available on OneStop, there will be an official polling site in Wright Place on voting days.

The candidates must fund themselves; no money is supplied by the SGA, which is funded by allotted money from student fees. They can use money that they have or raise money from sponsors. Each ticket is allowed to use a maximum of \$2,200. The candidates for the Senate seats are allowed a maximum of \$150 per person and SGA class officers are allowed a monetary cap of \$350. The cap includes all donations also. The cap is in place to keep everything as fair as possible.

All class officers are up for election, except for the freshman class, which will be chosen in the beginning of this September from the Shipmates Program. There is one officer representing each class. Mohamed Sale and Marcella Camara are running for sophomore class and Matthew Paske and Casey Anthony are running for senior class. The officer for junior class representative is running unopposed.

The senators representing each college all have candidates except for the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Honors College. Students interested in running for these positions can go to the SGA office in Mendenhall and submit their names for fall filing. These students do not have to campaign and there will be a small election also on OneStop.

Other than the stated limits, there are no monetary restrictions on campaigning. The elections committee validates the figures when the candidates turn in their expense report no later than 24 hours before polls open on the first day of elections. Failure to submit the expense report on time, failure to exceed the monetary cap and to submit false information will result in a fine starting from a minimum fine of \$50 to disqualification.

Joseph Gbenjo, a senior theater arts major, says that when it comes to elections, "It's not by labor, it's by favor."

The students who want to run for the president or vice president position need to have at least two consecutive semesters worth of

> **SGA page A3**

**Do you agree with the Richardson guilty verdict?**

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



# The East Carolinian

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Verdict reached in Richardson trial



TYRONE DEMERY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Protestor Monte Carlos believes that Richardson was wrongfully convicted of the 2009 murders outside of the Other Place nightclub.

**Cameron Gupton**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Last Wednesday afternoon at 2:45 p.m., after four days of deliberations, a jury found James Richardson guilty of first-degree murder.

Judge Rusty Duke gave Richardson two consecutive life sentences without parole for the deaths of Andrew Kirby and Landon Blackley in a drive-by shooting outside of The Other Place nightclub in June 2009.

In regards to these charges, the jury found Richardson guilty on the basis of malice,

pre-meditation and deliberation under the first-degree felony-murder rule.

District Attorney Clark Everett initially intended to seek the death penalty but did away with the option after the victims' families asked him to do so.

"I think they would like to show mercy to someone who didn't show them any mercy," said Everett to Judge Duke.

Charnele Wilkins, a sophomore biology major, said she feels the sentence is reasonable.

"The sentencing makes sense. Two life

sentences is fair," said Wilkins. "If you are involved in a first-degree murder, they should give you such sentences."

Richardson was given a chance to speak before he was sentenced.

"But judge, what I'm trying to say is they got the wrong guy," Richardson said. "I've been saying that since day one. You've got the wrong guy. You've got the wrong guy."

He made references to his children who

> **RICHARDSON page A2**

## PPH holds up budget debate

**Tyler Kitchens**  
STAFF WRITER

Planned Parenthood was one of the forefront arguments of a government-spending debate as Democrats and Republicans held out until the final moments before the 12 a.m. agreement deadline on whether funding for this program should continue in the next budget.

Planned Parenthood Federation for America, which receives over \$350 million in annual federal funding, currently provides several types of services to the general population, such as birth control, unintended pregnancy planning, cancer screenings, HIV testing and other forms of lifesaving care.

Conservative politicians argue that funding must be cut due to the abortion services that some Planned Parenthood health clinics provide.

In a statement to Lifeneews.com, Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-Ohio) affirmed the need to eliminate financial support to these facilities. "Should we be providing America's largest abortion provider taxpayer funding so it can keep its lights on so it can provide family planning on one side and abortions on the other?"

In spite of the comments made by conservative critics, Planned Parenthood advocates have stressed that the health centers do not receive federal funding for abortions. Legally, the clinics are not permitted to contribute federal dollars toward performing abortions, but conservatives believe that funding provided for the other services allows the clinics to allocate more of their own money for this procedure.

According to the Planned Parenthood website, cutting funding will put millions of Americans at risk because they will no longer have access to the services provided by the organization.

In North Carolina alone, there are nine facilities associated with PPHA, ranging from Asheville to Fayetteville. Last year, they received about \$255,000 to be distributed evenly among the health centers.

In a recent interview with the Winston-Salem Journal, Melissa Reed, Planned Parenthood's vice president for public policy, stated that the consequences for North Carolina would be severe should the elimination of funding be approved. "The impact would be felt very keenly by women who could least afford these services," she said.

> **PPH page A2**

## Uptown celebrates annual PirateFest Community relay's for life

**Alexis Headley**  
STAFF WRITER

PirateFest sailed into Greenville over the weekend for its fifth annual event, bringing Pirates of all ages to the area.

PirateFest is organized by Uptown Greenville and the City of Greenville to celebrate the city's rich and colorful history and Greenville's own Pirates of ECU.

The weekend festival began with the Buccaneer Bash on Friday night at Fourth and Evans Streets. The event was similar to another Uptown Greenville event, Freeboot Friday, which is held every Friday before home football games in the fall. 5th Generation and Tropic Culture played music while patrons enjoyed the "Grog Garden" for adult beverages.

Buccaneer Bash ended at 9 p.m. before the storms came through town and began again at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. Evans Street was closed and was transformed into a shopping venue where food, crafts and Pirate gear could be found in one of the 80 vendor tents lining the street.

The Parade of Pirates marked the beginning of the festival at 10 a.m. where all Pirates were invited to participate and compete for the prizes in categories such as funniest pirate, most colorful, best props and scariest pirate.

Other activities for Satur-

day included a treasure hunt, with clues that took participants around to different businesses in the area; a historical trolley tour, which toured through sites in Uptown Greenville and ECU; and performances by local schools that were located at the Courthouse Square.

First time attendee, sophomore Joshua Moultrie, said that PirateFest was a great way for Greenville to bring people together.

"There's such diversity here. It's very interesting and fun to see all these people together for this one occasion," said Moultrie.

Hundreds of people came to the festival to enjoy the different activities that were offered. The "Grog Garden" and live music returned to the stage at Fourth and Evans Streets while more of the performances and activities could be found farther down the street.

The "International Ports O'Call" was located in the Town Common, where different styles of dance, music, food and attractions from nations around the world were presented. The Greenville Chinese School, Hmong Student Association, the German Club and many other international organizations were on the

> **PIRATE FEST page A2**

**Hannah Farmer-Fernandez**  
STAFF WRITER

The fourth annual Relay for Life brought together creative students and cancer survivors to fight and find a cure for cancer.

Each Relay for Life event raises money for the American Cancer Society and supports its mission to eliminate cancer and save lives. With almost \$87,000 raised and over 1,700 participants, this year's Relay for Life was a great success. The program honors those who have been lost to cancer, while celebrating survivors who are fighting back against the disease. Relay for Life co-chairs, senior Kayce Clodfelter, a nutrition and dietetics major, and junior biology major Jordan Lull, say all their hard work was all worth it to help the fight against cancer.

According to Clodfelter and Lull, last year's Relay for Life co-chairs established this year's theme, "Toon-out Cancer." Each team picked a different childhood cartoon and themed their booth after their individual animation. The university's transit system chose "The Magic School Bus," while the most popular booth was ECU Occupational Therapy's "Pound Puppies" dog pin. Each booth had different products and food for donations, satisfying each participant's stomach and sweet tooth.

Participating cancer survivors

were treated to a dinner catered by ARAMARK and goodie bags preceding the scheduled events. As survivors enjoyed their spaghetti and ziti dinners at the club level of the Stadium, Piercing Silence, a local band, serenaded the teams while they set up their booths.

The university's all-female cappella group, Magnolia Bells, sang the national anthem, followed by a speech from SGA President Tremayne Smith.

Smith dedicated his speech to his Aunt Roslyn, who was taken by cancer earlier this year.

Smith spoke to the crowd, "My fellow Pirates, I relay for my Aunt Roslyn, but today we all relay

for life!" Freshman Juliann Stalls, a psychology major, took center stage after Smith in the opening ceremony and spoke about her battle with leukemia.

"Cancer picked the wrong one," said Stalls. "On May 6, it will be two years of me being cancer-free!" After Smith's and Stalls's speeches, the survivors and team members were hyped for the official start of Relay.

Relay officially started with a "Survivor Lap" that invited survivors and their companions to

> **RELAY page A2**



MAISEAN WILSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students creatively get people to donate to Relay for Life.

# Calendar Events

## Apr. 12 - Apr. 16

### Tuesday, April 11

Women's Tennis vs. Charlestown Southern  
2 p.m.

Zamba Yawar, Afro-Andean Music Ensemble  
7:30 p.m. at A.J. Fletcher Hall. Free admission.

### Wednesday, April 12

Softball vs. NCSU (Double header)  
4 p.m.

### Thursday, April 13

Men's Tennis vs. UNCW  
3 p.m.

"Merry Wives of Windsor" (play)  
8 p.m. at McGinnis Theatre. Admission charged.

### Friday, April 14

28th Annual Purple/Gold Pigskin Pig-Out Party  
12 p.m. Free admission.

Baseball vs. UCF  
6 p.m.

Russian Ballet  
7:30 p.m. Wright Auditorium. Admission charged.

ECU Jazz Combos  
8 p.m. at Christine's at the Hilton.

"Merry Wives of Windsor" (play)  
8 p.m. at McGinnis Theatre. Admission charged.

### Saturday, April 15

28th Annual Purple/Gold Pigskin Pig-Out Party  
8 a.m. Free admission

Men's Tennis vs. Elon  
12 p.m.

Baseball vs. UCF  
5 p.m.

"Merry Wives of Windsor" (play)  
8 p.m. at McGinnis Theatre. Admission charged.

### Sunday, April 16

Southern Watercolor Society Juried Exhibition  
1 p.m. Greenville Museum of Art. Free admission.

"Merry Wives of Windsor" (play)  
2 p.m. at McGinnis Theatre. Admission charged.

## Clarification

In the April 5 edition of The East Carolinian the article entitled "Student Health offers free testing" incorrectly stated Student Health Services offers free STD testing when in fact the only free testing offered is for HIV/AIDS.

## PPH continued from A1

She also said that though the health clinics would be able to continue to provide the same services in the event of a loss of funding, the cost would likely increase for their many constituents.

PPFA President Cecile Richards was also highly critical of recent efforts to cut funding. In a press release on the organization's website, she explained how this could potentially impact Planned Parenthood in the future.

"Some 60 percent of women who receive care in a family planning health center – like those affiliated with Planned Parenthood – say it's their main source of health care. The vast majority live at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and two-thirds lack health insurance," said Richards.

Several prominent political figures have also made statements supporting federal funding for Planned Parenthood, such as New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"These proposals have nothing to do with being fiscally responsible or cutting the U.S. budget deficit. Instead, these proposals would have serious consequences for women's health in New York City

and across the nation. Removing funding for women's health clinics through these proposals would likely increase the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, increase the number of women with cervical and breast cancers who are not diagnosed until the cancers are in late stages and increase unintended pregnancies among women," said Bloomberg, in a conference call with Planned Parenthood officials.

On campus, some students have expressed doubt that cutting off funding for Planned Parenthood health centers would be more beneficial than continuing to provide these resources for the Americans who utilize them.

"I don't think this is the appropriate time to even consider ending this program," said sophomore Eric Green. "Obviously Congress is between a rock and a hard place with the budget problems they're dealing with right now, but cutting off funding for people who don't have adequate health care services is just unacceptable."

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## PIRATE FEST continued from A1

fields to give people a taste of their culture.

The fun of PirateFest was not lost on the younger buccaneers. Some of the activities for children consisted of inflatable pirate ships, moon bounces, pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting and an arts and crafts center called the "Lil Pirates Pavilion," which included live music and arts and crafts.

Freshman volunteer T'Juana Perry was stationed next to one of the children's activities and was enjoying herself as much as the children. "I love the experience with the kids. I would volunteer again just for the kids and their smiles and general excitement," said Perry.

In order for PirateFest to occur, the event relies heavily on volunteers. Since Uptown Greenville is a non-profit organization, the community is a huge aid in making PirateFest a success. The Volunteer and Service Learning Center was a big part in recruiting volunteers for Friday and Saturday's events.

"They put on this festival as a

chance to bring Greenville closer as a private community and give everyone a chance to be a pirate," said Michael Loeffelman, a three-year volunteer coordinator from ECU's Volunteer and Service Learning Center and also a member of the PirateFest steering committee.

There were roughly 300 student volunteers, according to Loeffelman, doing various duties from watching over children's activities to handing out information on the festival.

Ronda Claiborne, freshman volunteer, not only volunteered for Saturday but also set up the decorations and tents the night before. "This is my very first PirateFest and I was surprised with the outcome. So many people came out to enjoy the festivities for both days. I came at 1 p.m. and the streets were so packed, I was kind of amazed," said Claiborne.

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

## RICHARDSON continued from A1

he has not seen in two years and repeatedly stated that the Greenville Police Department needed to continue the investigation of the shooting and find out who is really responsible.

"I feel like a lot of my rights have been violated," said Richardson.

The decision did not come easily for the jury. After the first day of deliberations, the jurors asked for clarification on reasonable doubt and the meaning of a hung jury. On the third day, one juror asked to be removed since he could not make a decision on one of the charges, and juror Lamuel Anderson said he felt pressured to cast a guilty vote.

Anderson said he felt pressure from other jurors who he felt had already made up their minds.

Despite Anderson's statements, Everett said the jury's decision will remain unchanged.

"The juror was personally polled and ascended every question. That was his verdict, and as I understand the law, the jury's verdict stands."

The decision in the case and Anderson's claim stirred up some

commotion in the community.

On Saturday, around 30 people marched from the city park at West Fifth and Nash Streets to the steps of the Pitt County Courthouse to protest the jury's decision and call for an end to racism and injustice.

Speakers at the march demanded the release of Richardson based on Anderson's statements and said the case should have ended in a mistrial.

Richardson was also found guilty of two counts of discharging a weapon into an occupied building. He will serve an additional 98 to 136 months in prison for the charges.

Lieutenant Rob Williams with the Greenville Police Department said the police are not allowed to comment on the situation.

Williams said they are referring anyone asking for comment to the district attorney.

There has not been any word as to whether Richardson's lawyers will appeal the decision.

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## RELAY continued from A1

circle the track together and help everyone celebrate the victories they have achieved over cancer. Survivors walked this year's Survivor Lap carrying a banner that read: "Survivors: We Are Winning."

"The look on all the survivors' faces during the Survivor Laps is the most rewarding part of Relay," said Lull. "They are winning against cancer."

Survivors' names are displayed on signs and gift bags. Coupon books are given, a free dinner is served and their physical faces bring hope that cancer can be beat.

After dark, during the "Luminary Ceremony," Relay participants honor the people who have been affected by cancer and remember loved ones departed because of cancer.

"It celebrates and shows that

survivors are still fighting while remembering the loved ones lost," said Clodfelter.

After 9 p.m., all of the lights of the stadium were turned off, and participants walked the track while it was outlined with luminary bags with the names of those taken by cancer. After a moment of silence, the festivities continued.

Relay for Life gives every person in the community a chance to celebrate, remember and fight back.

Through volunteers, donors, survivors and families remembering those lost, everyone at Relay found relief, comfort and strength from others who have faced cancer or who have lost a loved one.

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# Animal shelter challenge

**Abbey Way**  
STAFF WRITER

The Pitt County Animal Shelter is looking for votes from students in hopes of winning the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \$100K Challenge.

The Pitt County Shelter is one of only four shelters in North Carolina to be selected from across the country.

Manager of the Pitt County Shelter, Michele Whaley, said, "One of the requirements is you have to spay and neuter before you send the pets home, which is something that we do now." Shortly after applying, they heard news that they got in the challenge.

"If you stay in the top 50 vote-getters, you get to be in the top challenge," Whaley said. "We were in fourth place for the first three days, then we were hanging in fifth and now we have been in seventh."

The contest offers prizes for the largest number of additional cats, kittens, dogs and puppies beyond the minimum 300 overall and for specific regions.

Whaley said that their numbers

have been the highest they have been since 2002.

"February is a short month and we did 86 dog adoptions and 76 cats, so I was really surprised. That's really great," Whaley said.

The shelter does adoptions on a first-come, first-serve basis. Puppies are sold for \$75 and dogs over 4 months old are \$85. Kittens are \$50 and older cats are sold for \$60. They all come with the basic shots and spaying and neutering already done. Whaley said that they do not make any profit and all of the money goes back to the vet for the spaying and neutering charges. She encourages all who are ready for the responsibility to adopt from the shelter.

"A lot of these pets are good pets that have been surrendered because people can't keep up during the hard times and the bad economy," Whaley said.

Kimberly Kanala, a junior physical education major, adopted her chow lab from the shelter in August of 2009.

"I knew she was the right one. She kept giving me her paw. There's so many dogs in there, but she was the one that I had the most connec-

tion with," Kanala said.

According to Kanala, the previous owners could not take care of her anymore, so they brought her to the shelter.

"They let me take her out of the cage and play with her. Then I adopted her that day. I didn't even go to get a dog. I just went to look; then I couldn't pass her up," Kanala said. "They are good dogs, and there's a huge selection, and I would definitely recommend it."

Whaley has a lot of plans in mind if they win the prize money, including mobile adoptions, a new quarantine area and to expand the medical needs of the animals.

"We might not win the \$100,000, but if I could win \$20,000 or \$5,000, everything helps," Whaley said. "I'm impressed with what we have done already, and I'm thankful, but I know that we can do even more to push us over the top."

Whaley added that she is an ECU alumna and she needs help from her fellow Pirates.

To vote, visit [votetosavelives.org](http://votetosavelives.org). The contest ends on April 15.

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

## SGA

continued from A1

experience in any other position. The students who want to be in the executive cabinet or the judicial branch of the SGA have to complete an application and submit it to the elections committee.

The Chief Justice, Andrew Ross; the SGA Adviser, Bobby Woodard; the Elections Chair Brittney Williamson and the elections committee will supervise OneStop all day to make sure that the site is running smoothly and to tabulate the votes as they come in. Results to the elections will be posted at 6:01 p.m. on the door of the SGA office and on the SGA website Monday.

After all decisions have been made, there is an inaugural ball. The students that previously held positions "pass the batons" to the newly elected students and the elections chair swears them into their positions.

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

Pirate Rants: Where's the app for that?!

In reply to the person who thinks we're disgusting: People who can't afford shoes go without shoes in the rain on a regular basis. Are they disgusting? Going without shoes, no matter what, is what raising awareness for TOMS Shoes is about.

This weather is killing my booty short watching skills, one day its cold the next it's hot. Work with me weather!

I think the acceptance letter for ECU should come with an eye patch.

Do not remove me as a Facebook friend and then poke me. I feel as if that poke has violated me. I am offended.

How am I supposed to get my Taylor Swift on when the internet is this slow?

There are two things you can always count on in life: Death and the ECU transit system to be at least 5 minutes late. ALWAYS!

There is a difference between leggings and yoga pants: The transparency. Get it right.

If you were to come up north, us "Yankees" do not judge you on being from the south. Stop being so ignorant and get over yourselves.

I think I'm going to write "Buddha is coming" all over campus. I'm getting really tired of having other people's beliefs shoved down my throat.

I'm tired of reading people post rants about Christians being cults. Last time I checked, America was founded by bible-believing Christians and based on Christian principles. Get with it.

You know you go to ECU when you use alcohol bottles as weights to work out because you are too poor to buy actual weights.

If class participation means telling pointless and rambling stories the entire class, then I'm glad I have an F.

I don't care how cute your baby is; don't bring that shrieking, kicking, loud-ass thing into the computer lab when I am trying to work!

Taking away our Chick-Fil-A will just add more hatred towards the gay community and I don't want to get hated on even more. There are more important issues than a fast food place. Besides, I'm gay and love Chick-Fil-A!

To the guy in Scott hall that drives the red 350Z: You're not handicapped so why do you park there?

My roommate sleeps with both her lover and boyfriend within a 1 hour period. She doesn't shower in between either. I really feel like I'm going to get herpes by just breathing the same air as her.

Since we're all in college, I'm going to assume we're all educated enough to understand why we shouldn't use the term "retarded" in such a derogatory manner.

No matter how many times you tell me you were nationally ranked in Soul Caliber will I ever think you are cool.

Just sayin', if YOUR vibrator wasn't in YOUR caddy in OUR shower that WE share, and YOU didn't masturbate in OUR shower, then I wouldn't have an infection on my foot because of your nasty ass! Who knows what the hell you have?!

More Pirate Rants on the website

## Our View | Paying for advice

All ideas and viewpoints expressed in "Our View" are those selected and discussed by the editorial board of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or e-mail [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com)

As the temperature rises and our minds wander to summer, some of us are anticipating graduation. Not only are we looking forward to the endless possibilities that await us, but just donning the purple cap and gown is excitement enough. By putting in time and effort, the fruits of your labor are represented in ritual ceremony.

One of the most memorable aspects of graduation can be a great commencement speaker. While some people can drone on for countless hours, some speakers can really offer insightful advice, as well as bring attention and accreditation to the university.

Why, then, is Rutgers University paying Snooki \$32,000 to speak at its graduation ceremony? While she's on the infamous television show "Jersey Shore," she grew up in New York, not New Jersey, where Rutgers is located. Her connection to the school is blurred. She didn't even graduate from community college, so what advice will she offer? If it's drinking and partying, college students probably already know how to do that on their own. If she's offering sage advice on how to be a fame whore, it's apparent that you don't need a degree for that.

Maybe the more upsetting aspect of this bizarre scenario is that Toni Morrison, the acclaimed writer and professor at UNC-Chapel Hill, will also be speaking at the ceremony. While her presence at a ceremony for high education makes sense, she, too, only speaks at a high cost: \$30,000. While it's devastating that Snooki, lover of booze, boys and pickles, is being paid \$2,000 more than an acclaimed and brilliant author, Morrison is still accepting a job most take for free.

The typical commencement speakers will forgo the monetary offers to speak at graduations. Some will accept money for lodging and travel, but not for speaking. The more notable a school, the more likely they are to draw in speakers for free. The honor of speaking at an Ivy League is priceless to some people. Other schools also offer honorary degrees instead of money.

Maybe Snooki should have gone with a degree, since she didn't go through with her veterinary technician degree. If there is any hope in humanity, the "Jersey Shore" craze will burn out and Snooki will have to have a backup plan. The pouf won't pay her rent forever.

If Snooki is going to join the ranks of acclaimed speakers, the world is in trouble. ECU recently released the information of commencement speaker. US Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus will deliver the commencement speech. While they didn't release whether or not he was getting paid, we hope ECU isn't spending a tremendous



ILLUSTRATED BY TIMOTHY WEAVER

amount on his services.

At the very least, he is a far better and more respectable option than a reality show TV star. We don't need to undermine our education by being lectured about partying and tanning from someone who doesn't know what they're talking about. When in doubt, never involve or associate with Snooki.

## Eye for an eye, poo for a poo



Ben Cochran  
OPINION COLUMNIST

When you're walking through a park or any other grassy area outside, you're often plodding along with your head up, taking in your surroundings and loving nature and the fact that you're alive. That feeling of exuberance is immediately shattered, however, when you realize that you've stepped directly onto a steamy pile of dog poo.

It's aggravating. It smells awful. And the sheer texture of it when your foot first sinks into that mushy mess makes your skin crawl.

If you're living at one of the many student apartment complexes around campus, you might be experiencing this sort of thing on an all-too-frequent basis. Sure, many of the complexes have doggy bags available on the premises, but they are hardly ever used and the rule of picking up after your dog is never enforced. And once a practice has become accepted by a community, it is almost impossible to reverse. So the end result is a heavily poop-laden yard at these apartment complexes.

The problem results from a couple of reasons. First and

foremost, people are lazy. Secondly, people are irresponsible pet owners. Thirdly, many people keep pets at these complexes illegally or without the consent/knowledge of the property management. Fourthly, an apathetic maintenance crew that is as lazy as the tenants. Fifthly, an inability to comprehend that while no one dog is responsible for all of the poo, every single dog is collectively part of the problem.

And it's not that this is just some nuisance that occurs because I'm high strung and have no patience for domesticated animals and their biological functions. Dog feces is a major contributor to health hazards. E. Coli runs rampant in such a gooey and moist host as a dog log. And anyone who's ever taken Biology 2110 knows that E. Coli is none too pleasant on the nostrils, either.

I understand if you're the type of person who doesn't really care about other people's sensitivities, but you should know that not picking up your dog's feces is more than just being an ass — it's against the law. The City of Greenville code 12-2-40 states that, "It shall be unlawful to permit any dog to defecate or urinate on the lawn or property of any but the owner, or upon any public or private property without the permission of the owner of that property."

Some of you shortsighted individuals may not be able to comprehend that the actions you take now can lead to very real consequences later. If you think that the risk of getting caught is so miniscule that

you're willing to chance it, then don't you dare start submitting Pirate Rants about the citation you received from the Animal Control officer that I tipped off.

That's right, code 12-2-42 states that "animal control officers are empowered to issue citations to any person, if there is probable cause to believe that he has violated any of the provisions of this chapter. Citations issued may be delivered in person to the violator by the animal control officers or they may be mailed to the person, if he cannot be readily found. Any notice or citation delivered or mailed shall direct the violator to appear at the office of the revenue collector of the city within five (5) days." Owned.

I'm telling you right now, you do not want to have to cancel your dinner date with that slammin' hottie, because you spent all your money on a citation for dog dookie. Guess how many more times she'll be going out with you?

Ladies and gentlemen, we live in a civilized society — you must pick up after your dog. If something isn't done to reverse this trend, I shudder to think where we might end up. Karma's a female dog, and if the animal control citations don't put an end to this behavior, then it's only a matter of time before you feel the squish of disappointment under your shoes.

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

## Life is a beach



Morgan Logan  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Set to open in May 2011 is a beach on ECU's recreation fields near North Campus Crossing. Forget that 80-mile expedition to Atlantic Beach; now the nautical setting will practically be in your backyard.

The beach is measured at 425 feet long and 100 feet wide. Additions along with the beach include a boathouse, complete with kayaks and canoes, two volleyball courts, a gazebo and a walking trail around the beach. But don't get your hopes up for salt water and seashells; the "beach" is actually a pond with imported sand.

Gray Hodges of Campus Recreation and Wellness said that the beach is being built using student funds.

ECU issued an "Important Financial Message for the 2010-2011 School Year" that can be accessed on its financial aid services webpage. On it, it details how North Carolina legislators and the Board of Governors approved a \$390 tuition increase for the undergraduate in-state students. Undergraduate out-of-state students saw a \$1,630 increase from the two divisions as well.

ECU takes nearly 70 percent of the increased funds to help with financial aid, the Pirate Tutoring Center and the Honors College.

While these services are nice, I would like to know how the rest of my increased tuition is spent. It's not going toward professors, as we are seeing faculty cut due to the budget crisis. It's not going toward courses, as I know plenty of students who had difficulty registering for class because the class they need for graduation is no longer available. It bothers me to know that some money has gone toward additional recreational facilities.

Many students, especially those at NCC, already have plenty of entertainment options. With a full-size indoor gymnasium, a fitness center, a Wii and PS3 game station, a 24-hour computer lab, three swimming pools and two hot tubs, what is there not to like about North Campus Crossing? But many other apartment complexes offer similar services. Those students on campus can enjoy the great amenities at the Student Rec Center. The inclusion of the beach isn't necessary.

Cory Hunt, marketing director for NCC, assured me that East Carolina Parks and Recreation would maintain the opening of the beach. Great news for aspiring residents: Hunt also noted how the beach would not affect apartment rates. This way, we know the beach can't drain any more money out of our pockets.

Hunt "feels like students will be more relaxed" with the opening of the beach. I can see how that would be so. Students need a place to go and chill and socialize all at once for free. While this is a free activity for us, we know for sure that it was costly in terms of construction.

Amenities are nice to have, but I do not travel four hours to Greenville to lounge by a faux beach. I'm here to receive the best education possible so that I, in turn, can attend medical school. I'm positive many students would much rather have required courses and some extra money in our pockets than a sandy pond.

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

### POLL RESULTS

Will you vote in the upcoming SGA elections?	Yes	13%
	No	87%

### STAFF INFORMATION

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Katie Bates	Public Editor
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### Contact Info

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**EXSS 1000 is no longer activity-specific**

The class takes a more generalized turn

**Rebecca Blanchette**  
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

When signing up for classes a couple of weeks ago, some students may have noticed that the required exercise course (EXSS 1000) has changed. In fact, this change came about last semester and focuses the class on a broader range of activities, rather than one set sport or activity.

Prior to this school year, the EXSS 1000 classes were divided into different activities, such as basketball, volleyball and yoga, to name a few. Students would focus on that one activity for the entire semester. Now, the EXSS 1000 classes incorporate a number of different activities into the course, so students can participate in basketball, volleyball, yoga and more in just one semester.

"Previously, under the old format, if a student signed up for EXSS 1000: Golf because they thought they would like it or because it was the only section of 1000 offered at the time that would work best with their schedule, but ended up not liking the activity, they would be stuck in a class that they were not enjoying," said Stacey Altman, exercise and sports sciences chair. "That was an important issue for us. The new format offers a bit more standardization and multiple activities; one or more of which are likely to be appealing to the student."

The Lifetime Physical Activity and Fitness Program is focused on educating students on the importance of leading healthy lifestyles and the benefits that it has. "I think we have always been trying to better educate the campus on fitness," said Altman. "The new format in EXSS 1000 incorporates instruction on fitness, sport and less vigorous physical activity."

Some students may be intimidated by the change, perceiving that there may be more work. "There's rumors that we're working students to death and that's not the case," said Altman. She said that the class is mainly focused on "experiencing" physical activity. "Completing readings and assignments is required as well, but those elements are quite reasonable for a one hour course."

One thing that hasn't changed is the amount of bookwork that students are also required to do. Altman said that there is roughly 30 percent class work and 70 percent activity. "The assignments are very individualized," said Altman. "Students track their food intake, or what we call energy intake, and then track activity to get an idea of what balance is."

Once students complete EXSS 1000, they will then have the option to enroll in activity-specific exercise classes. This way, students can become well rounded by getting a feel for a plethora of different activities to find out what they really like. This eliminates the probability of students being stuck in a class they don't enjoy and finding out too late that they don't like the activity they signed up for.

However, there are some students who enjoyed being able to pick one activity and stick to it all year. Student Zachary Hugh Lee Kirk took EXSS 1000: Volleyball during a previous school year. "I thought it was really cool that you could choose an activity that you weren't really familiar with," said Kirk. "I don't know what the new system is but the old system was great. I did volleyball and it was awesome!"

Still, Altman said that the new format has received positive feedback, though complaints are still received from some students who do not want to participate in any physical activity at all. "Hopefully we can get them excited (through EXSS 1000) so they're not so resistant to it."

"We hope to make the experience relevant and enjoyable to each student by giving more attention to individual goal setting, exposure to potential activity options and the 'know-how' to make healthy choices for a lifetime," said Altman of the new EXSS 1000 format.

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

## LGBT Resource Office takes stand



LGBT office employee Summer Wisdom and freshman Heather Roush make beaded bracelets in the LGBT Resource Office in Brewster.

Newly developed LGBT office provides student support with full time leadership

**Marlana Sifter**  
STAFF WRITER

Nestled between sociology offices, the recently developed LGBT Resource Office welcomes students of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identity, as well as other students, for academic and personal support.

As a sympathetic and knowledgeable advocate for the LGBT community, Summer Wisdom, director and sole member of the office, with a master's in sociology, serves as the contact for students seeking the resources for the LGBT

population. These resources often go unnoticed across campus.

"It is really important that any student or employee of the university be able to bring their whole selves - all of who they are - into the classroom, onto campus, or to work every day," said Taffye Clayton, associate provost of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations and also chief diversity officer.

Through Wisdom, the LGBT Resource Office offers a daily supply of culturally relevant library materials (for student use and counseling) and referrals to experts across the campus and volunteer opportunities. Wisdom is also available to give educational presentations on LGBT culture,

always with a supply of rainbow pins. These simple yet bright ornaments placed on clothing or bags signal to the LGBT community that the wearer is a supporter.

Officially launched in mid-January, and financially supported by an alumni benefactor, the office is already making an impact, regularly coordinating LGBT and allied faculty, staff and graduate lunch groups.

"In the three short months that the office has been open, I've been amazed by the number of students who already spend time in the space on a weekly basis," said Wisdom.

A major event sponsored by the office this semester was the wellness passport event "Not Your Average Southern Gentleman: Grow-

ing up Trans in the South." The showing was a success, drawing more than 115 people in attendance and humanizing the issues involved in being transgender.

In the coming weeks, the area outside the office will be furnished with a few couches and chairs that will make the space a friendly hangout for visitors. Wisdom encourages any students to sign up for chances to volunteer with the office by emailing her at [wisdoms@ecu.edu](mailto:wisdoms@ecu.edu). With regular help from volunteers, the office can be open longer, rather than the current 20 hours a week Wisdom spends there.

In the distant future, the ideal goal is for the office to grow into its own individual space outside of the sociology department. Wisdom also looks forward to co-sponsoring educational and multicultural events with other offices, and expanding her workshops and presentations. Eventually, the office will benefit from using a staff, possibly composing of volunteers or graduate students. The office also hopes to become part of the national "It Gets Better" campaign, possibly using the slogan, "Tomorrow starts here - Don't let it start without you."

The arrival of an LGBT Resource Office took place over many years. This is all thanks to the efforts of numerous student-led initiatives and faculty research. LGBT Student Union has maintained a student-led presence on campus for 17 years, providing students with an open environment where they can be themselves. Safe Zone, a training program led by director of housing operations Aaron Lucier, has also taught faculty how to confront LGBT issues and identify themselves as allies to students.

Sexual orientation language first entered the university's nondiscrimination statement in 2002. LGBT issues first became a major priority of the EDC Office after a university climate survey in 2007 demonstrated a lack of support for the

LGBT population. Afterward, the EDC restructured toward LGBT needs. Before, the office had been generally responsible for nondiscrimination.

Clayton approached Linda Mooney, criminologist and sociology professor, to research and compile a Needs and Assessment Report for LGBT resources in the university. Her results illustrated the presence of many services, such as clear and visible procedures for reporting LGBT related bias incidents and hate crimes, as well as the inclusion of "sexual orientation" within the EEO policy.

Already remedying one of the findings, an LGBT Identity course will be offered in fall 2011, taught by Melinda Kane. It will focus on the growth of social science research on LGBT people and communities.

Wisdom's graduate dissertation, completed in November 2010, further outlined ECU's LGBT resources by comparing them to other UNC schools as well as peer institutions. Of 16 other UNC schools, only Appalachian, UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and Wilmington had LGBT Resource Offices.

As committee chair of the LGBT Advisory Board, Mooney presented her information to a full commission. Then, last year, she and Wisdom approached Marilyn Sheerer, provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, and strong ally for the cause, and asked to begin the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Office.

"The timing was right," said Mooney, who cited the recent campus incident involving two girls harassed for being perceived as lesbian, the Rutgers University tragedy of Tyler Clementi, and the bill in the North Carolina Senate trying to forbid civil unions next year.

"People should have the right to love who they want to love. It's much different than 20 years ago," said Mooney.

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

## Imagine life without shoes

The campus TOMS club works to raise awareness and help countries without shoes

**Mike Davis**  
STAFF WRITER

Though the second season of CBS's "The Amazing Race" had finished, contestant Blake Mycoskie's amazing race had just begun. Returning to Argentina in 2006, Mycoskie saw kids' futures hindered by them not having any shoes to wear.

TOMS Shoes, headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif., is a unique for-profit shoe organization that Mycoskie started after he returned from Argentina later that year. TOMS donates a new pair of shoes to a child in need for every pair of shoes sold. "One for One" is their logo, as seen all across their website, [Toms.com](http://Toms.com).

Mycoskie decided to start the shoe organization because he saw that one of the leading causes for diseases in poor areas and third-world countries were transmitted through soil, which can infect cuts and lead to illness. Not only is potential disease a problem in these areas, but also not being able to attend school due to dress code violations causes kids to grow up without an education to fall back upon.

To help raise awareness about TOMS Shoes efforts, universities across the country have created student-run TOMS clubs that hold events to help spread the

word. All a university needs to do is visit the TOMS website and fill out the necessary information to become a TOMS affiliate.

Though ECU's TOMS club is still in the paperwork stages of becoming an official on-campus club, that didn't stop Rachel Mason and crew from getting a head start on the efforts. They participated in the fourth annual "One Day Without Shoes" event on April 4, where thousands of people around the world went a day without shoes to raise awareness of the organization.

According to the TOMS website, the purpose of "One Day Without Shoes" is to inspire "curiosity and conversation" about those going without shoes, which will lead to "action and change."

Even though temperatures were in the 40s and rain fell through the skies, that didn't stop students from participating, as many went back to their younger years and trekked shoeless through the puddles. "I woke up and thought (the event) wasn't going to be good," said Mason. "By the afternoon, it wasn't raining anymore

and turned out really well. We got people to take off their shoes and take pictures for the website."

Since the movement hit campus two years ago, Mason and her fellow Pirates have slowly but surely created a growing TOMS following. "People would email me saying they were interested,

but no one would ever show up," said Mason. With the recent explosion of interest, Mason hopes that the club can become active in the Greenville community, helping out at events like Barefoot on the Mall.

To get in contact with a TOMS associate at ECU, create a

TOMS profile and find ECU at the TOMS website under the tab "Campus Clubs." Once the profile has been created, you can communicate with the fellow Pirates involved. The unofficial club meets most Mondays at 2 p.m. by the campus Starbucks to talk about future events and how to get local businesses, like TOMS distributor Fusion Surf and Skate, involved in the shoe movement.

"We are the only TOMS distributor in the Greenville area, so we are more than willing to help the club and co-sponsor an event," said Fusion Surf and Skate owner Scott Harris.

Since 2006, Mycoskie and his team have given over 1 million pairs of shoes to people in 23 different countries.

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

Beth Ackerman experiences what it is like to go a day without shoes.

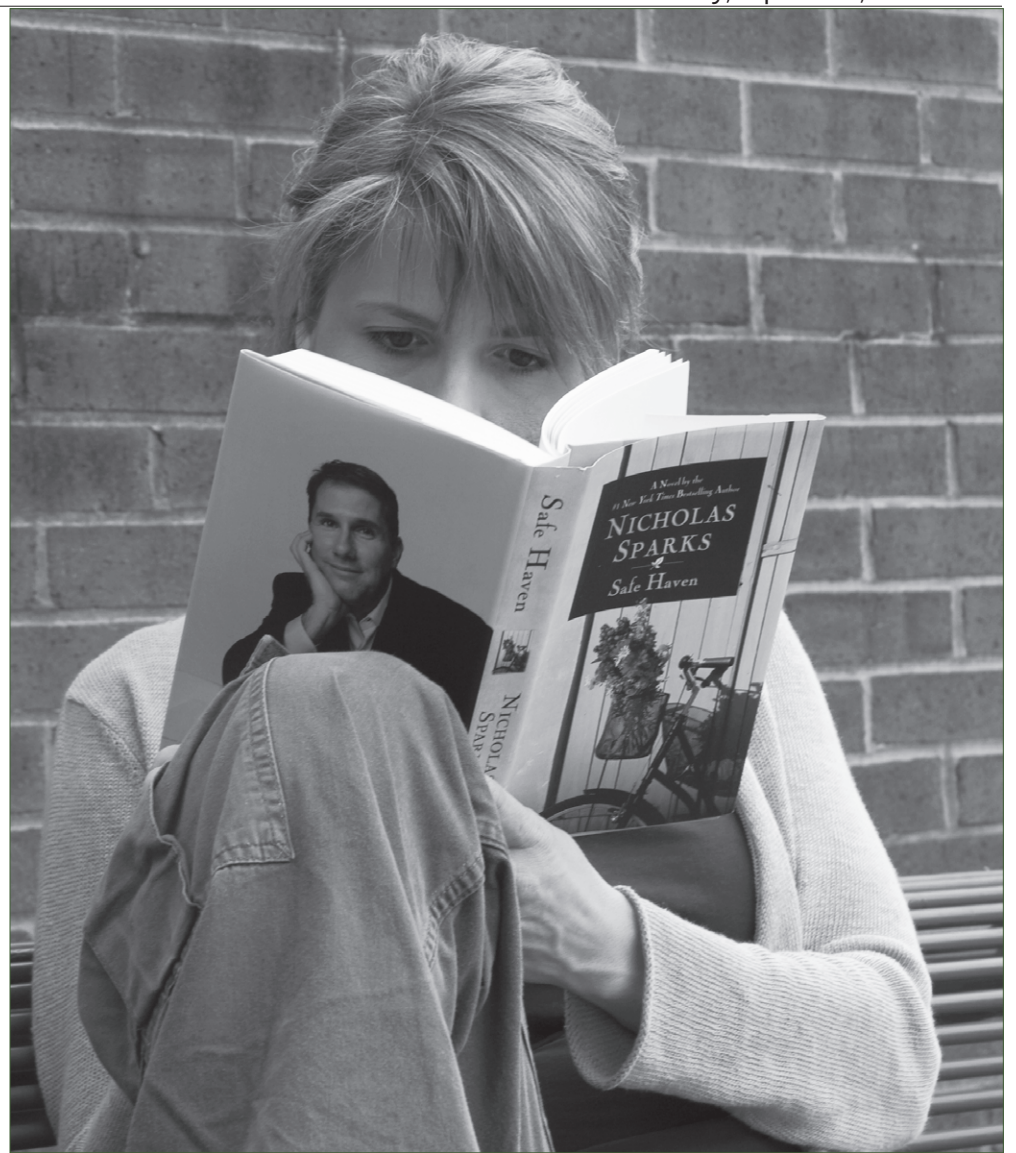
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**The ECU Student Media Board  
invites applications for the  
2011 - 2012 academic year.**

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*Buccaneer*  
Yearbook

(Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student and have a 2.25 GPA)  
**Applications are available in the Media Board Office**  
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The deadline for submitting an application is  
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For information call the Media Board office at 328 - 9236



DAN WILLET | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Graduate student Linda Fox reads N. Carolina author Nicholas Sparks's newest release, 'Safe Haven'.

# Sparks produces another page-turner

★★★★☆

**Madonna Messana**  
STAFF WRITER

Author Nicholas Sparks's newest novel hit bookshelves in September 2010 and it has not disappointed fans.

Sparks has written several best-selling novels, including "The Notebook," "A Walk to Remember," "Dear John" and "The Wedding" — just to name a few. His most recent novel, "Safe Haven," has proven to be just as popular among readers.

"Fans know what to expect from Nicholas Sparks: a compelling love story centered on two appealing individuals," stated BookReporter.com. "In Safe Haven, readers

find that — and much more.... Sparks expertly amps up the suspense — turning what has been a pleasant romance into a riveting 'read all night' page-turner."

"Safe Haven" is the story of a quiet young woman named Katie who moves to Southport, a small town in North Carolina, and is questioned about her mysterious past. However, she is determined to put her past behind her and tries to avoid making personal ties with anyone in the town.

Unavoidably, Katie becomes close with her outspoken single neighbor, Jo, as well as a widowed storeowner, Alex, and his two young children. She eventually lets down her guard and shares her

past with both Alex and Jo, who are understanding and do not question her further. And as time continues, Katie becomes very close to Alex and his family, causing her to make herself very comfortable in the close-knit community.

Marlayna Sikora, a sophomore English major, has read all of Sparks's novels and was just as pleased after reading "Safe Haven."

"I loved that it was suspenseful and romantic all in one," Sikora said. "I've read every Nicholas Sparks book and every single one is different, yet they always leave you with a good feeling in the end." She added, "Safe Haven reminded me of 'The Guard-

> SPARKS page A7

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SUMMER 2011 FINANCIAL AID

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- Pay any balance due

### Change #2

- Financial Aid will only appear on your Summer Session 1 bill

### Change #3

- Financial Aid will be disbursed twice regardless of which summer session(s) you are enrolled

### Change #4

- Summer 2011 Pell Grants may be affected by Congressional action



For more information, restrictions and questions, please visit [www.ecu.edu/financial](http://www.ecu.edu/financial)

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# FILING

will be held April 7-8 in the SGA office

# ELECTIONS

will be held April 14-15

**Available positions include:**

**Executive Officers:**

President • Vice President • Secretary • Treasurer

**Legislative Officers:**

Senators

Class Officers (1 per class)

College of Allied Health Science (1 position)

College of Business (3 positions)

College of Arts and Sciences (3 positions)

College of Education (3 positions)

College of Fine Arts and Communication (3 positions)

College of Health and Human Performance (2 positions)

College of Human Ecology (2 positions)

College of Nursing (1 position)

College of Technology and Computer Science (2 positions)

Honors College (1 position)

General College (6 positions)

Any student interested in running for the above positions must file for candidacy on April 7-8 in the SGA Office (101 Mendenhall) between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. For more information about elections and positions, please go to [www.ecu.edu/sga](http://www.ecu.edu/sga), or contact Brittany Williamson, Elections Chair, at [electionschair@ecu.edu](mailto:electionschair@ecu.edu)



**SPARKS** continued from A6

ian' because of the suspense — there is a rejected love that makes the story thrive. Bottom line, 'Safe Haven' did what every Nicholas Sparks book does: it made me cry and it made me believe in love."

For Sikora, "Safe Haven" was a very enjoyable read and she recommends anyone to read it and any of Sparks's other novels as well.

The structure of the novel leaves readers wanting more, and it makes it difficult to put the book down. That, along with the suspense, keeps readers entwined in the novel.

Sparks tells the story in present day, where Katie has started her new life. He uses her flashbacks to tell readers the story of the life she left behind as she shares her secrets to Alex and Jo.

Throughout several parts of the novel, Sparks spends quite some time explaining the day-to-day life of each character, which becomes repetitive; however, this does not completely take away from the good read. His repeti-

tiveness helps readers understand and get to know each of the characters a little better.

While reading "Safe Haven," it took very little time to get sucked into the plot. Being my first Nicolas Sparks novel, the author did not disappoint. The plot definitely draws readers in because with each turned page, the mystery develops more and more.

Readers will unavoidably find themselves deep into the story as they learn the histories of the characters and how fate inevitably drew them together. Sparks's novel is a page-turner that becomes difficult to put down.

The end of the story has a strange twist that reveals both the mystery of the novel and the mysteries of certain characters, leaving some readers with goose bumps.

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

**DOWN TIME**

3	5			1	7	9	8	
	8	2		5	3		1	4
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**SOLUTION**

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

The **Man Panel** — Thursday 4 p.m. Hendrix Theatre

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## Track grabs 15 event titles at WCU

### ECU Media Relation

ECU traveled to Western Carolina for the third-annual Mountains vs. Beaches Quad Meet this weekend, coming away with 15 event titles and a new outdoor pole vault school record.

The women put up a score of 188.50 to finish second to Appalachian State while the men accrued 163 points to take third. The Pirates and UNC-Wilmington teamed up to compete against the Mountaineers and Cata-mounts as the mountains combined squad won both regional titles (Men: 354-320/Women: 368.5-313.5).

The wins were split down the middle with eight men and seven women, including the ladies 4x400 relay squad, grabbing first place.

Sophomore All-America Tynita Butts and classmate Austin Lewis started the day off strong for ECU, putting up 5.70 and 7.27-meter marks to capture both long jump events before reigning Conference USA champion and junior Dennis Aliotta put up a mark of 17.15 in the shot put to take first.

Montrell Morrow continued his solid sophomore campaign, winning the discus by nearly four full meters at 51.32. Butts then added to her medal haul in her specialty, the high jump, by leaping 1.75 meters.

Two more male field athletes joined the winners' circle, as sophomore Aaron Zakula broke his own school record in the pole vault by .21 meters with a mark of 4.88 while Aliotta won his second event, the hammer, by throwing it 58.86 meters. Additionally, the javelin tandem of Spencer Barrick and Nicole Tozzi made their marks on top of the leaderboard to round out the field portion of the event, recording marks of 64.45 and 42.59 respectively.

Brooke and Britney Kott, along with Aiesha Goggins and Victoria Robinson, secured the 4x400 relay title for the Pirates, running the event in 3:45.92. Brooke Kott also took first place in 1,500-meter run with a time of 4:38.81.

Senior Mario Briscoe continued to build toward the C-USA Outdoor Championships, winning the 110-meter hurdle gold in 14.32. Robinson also won her second event of the day, capturing the 400-meter hurdles and clocking in at 1:02.53.

Finally, in two of the shorter distanced races, Goggins and Tiffany Harris topped the field by running times of 24.00 and 54.82 in the 200 and 400, respectively.

ECU continues its outdoor season next Saturday, April 16, participating in the Carolina Invitational at Belk Track and Fetzer Field.

## Men's golf wins title at River Landing

### ECU Media Relations

Facing a six-stroke deficit heading into the final 18 holes, ECU posted a final round 8-under 280 to defeat day-one leader Liberty University by three strokes to win the 2011 River Landing Intercollegiate co-hosted by ECU and UNC-Wilmington. ECU, which claimed its second tournament title of the season, finished ahead of three teams ranked in front of it in the Golfweek/Sagarin ratings on Saturday at the par-72, 6,898-yard River Landing Country Club.

ECU recorded a 54-hole team score of 23-under 841, while the Flames finished at 20-under 844 followed by Conference USA rival Memphis in third place at 16-under 848.

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

# SPORTS

# A8

Tuesday, 4.12.11

sports@theeastcarolinian.com

# BRANDT SAVES SUNDAY FROM SWEEP BY RICE

Adam Bunn  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The series finale of the three-game weekend conference clash between ECU and Rice was a game that stood in stark contrast with the first two, as the Pirates finally were able put together a complete game, beating Rice 7-3.

On Friday and Saturday the story was the dominant nature of the Rice pitching staff and their ability to make Division I college athletes look like high school players, while also taking advantage of the Pirates' pitching staff.

However, on Sunday ECU finally solved the Owls' pitching equation to the tune of nine hits and seven runs, while also getting a masterful pitching performance by junior southpaw Kevin Brandt.

After getting shut down in two games, 2-1 and 5-3, the Pirate coaching staff decided to revamp the batting order and it paid off immediately.

After Ben Fultz popped out to right to begin the opening stanza, Jack Reinheimer, who was moved up in the batting order from the 7-hole on Saturday to the 2-hole on Sunday, lifted a double down the first baseline. Corey Thompson would follow with a single that fell just in between the left fielder and third baseman, putting runners on the corners with just one out in the inning.

A struggling Trent Whitehead hit a slow roller to the left side of the infield for what looked to be a routine ground ball. Instead, the Owls' third baseman Shane Hoelscher airmailed the throw over the first baseman into the Rice dugout. The flop allowed Reinheimer to score and kept the inning alive. The Pirates would add two more runs on a John Wooten two-RBI single up the middle that scored Thompson and Whitehead.

The Owls began their scoring in the top of the third inning, but not without a great deal of help from the Pirate in-field.

Following Ussery's error, Rice would get on the board when Michael Fuda grounded to second and Ussery and Reinheimer were unable to turn the double play, allowing Perrott to score. The Owls would add one more run on an RBI single by Anthony Rendon before Brandt settled down and struck out back-to-back batters with the bases loaded to end the Rice threat.

After the Owls clawed back to within one with their two-run third inning, the Pirates added a run on a Chase McDonald RBI double to the gap in left-center field gave ECU a two-run cushion once again.

The Pirate batters settled in, putting up one more run in the seventh and two in the eighth to cap their scoring output.



Left-hander Kevin Brandt pitched a complete game for a win on Sunday against the Rice Owls.

"To come out here after a tough loss yesterday and have a 10:30 a.m. game which is not something you see all the time," Billy Godwin said of the Pirates' performance. "It shows great heart by our players to come out here and get that win against a very good Rice club."

Following the early offensive production, the Pirates' pitching staff settled in to finish the bout.

Left-hander Brandt was solid all day, but struggled a bit in the third when Rice was able to get back into the game. However, after getting out of trouble, Brandt was really never in danger following the third, scattering seven hits over nine innings while allowing just two earned runs.

In his first start since his suspension for violating team rules, Brandt showed from the third inning on why he was able to beat college baseball powerhouses North Carolina and South Carolina early on in his career.

"Well, it's adversity," Brandt said of coming back from his suspension. "The only thing you can do is bounce back from it, but I did try to come back a little bit stronger."

With the pitching staff taking care of the Owls' offense, the Pirates' offense was for the first time in this series given the opportunity to relax and find their swing.

ECU batters struck out a combined 27 times in the previous two games against Rice, with 18 on Friday and nine on Saturday. Sunday was a different story as the Pirates struck out just twice in the tilt.

After dropping two of three against Rice, the Pirates will try to gather some momentum as they head to Chapel Hill for an in-state matchup with No. 7 North Carolina Tuesday night at 6 p.m.

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

# SOFTBALL SUFFERS SERIES LOSS TO UCF

Carlos Olivera  
STAFF WRITER

The ECU softball team was able to salvage the weekend and avoid the sweep with a 1-0 victory on Sunday over the UCF Knights. The win also snapped a three-game losing streak, but it did mark the first conference series loss since dropping two out of three to Memphis last month.

The Pirates have struggled offensively lately and Sunday was no different. The Pirates only mustered two hits and scored their lone run on a throwing error by UCF Knights shortstop Tiffany Lane. Fortunately, senior Toni Paisley was on the mound and threw another gem.

Paisley pitched another great game, going the distance while giving up four hits and striking out seven Knights. The win marked Paisley's 22nd on the season and 108th of her career, putting her in a tie with former DePaul pitcher Lindsey Chouinard for the most wins in Conference USA history.

Also with the win, Paisley recorded her nation-best 13th solo shutout and ran her record to 12-1 against UCF, with the only loss coming in game one of the series on Saturday.

"I didn't even think of it (tying the record), so that was good. I just wanted to come out and get the win," said Paisley.

Both teams struggled from the plate until the bottom of the fifth, when the Pirates finally got on the scoreboard. Junior Suzanne Riggs led off the inning with a single to left and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by senior Sissy Jimenez.

Freshman Jill Jelnick stepped up and hit a grounder to the shortstop Lane, who tried to throw out Riggs at third. The throw got away from third baseman Allie Jest, allowing Riggs to

SOFTBALL page A9

## OPINION



Alex Serkes  
STAFF WRITER

# MOCK DRAFT

# CROSSFIRE

## OPINION



Chase Kroll  
STAFF WRITER

### 10. Washington Redskins: Julio Jones Wide receiver, Alabama

The Redskins have many questions they have to answer both offensively and defensively. The obvious choice would be to go with a quarterback with their first pick; however, Gabbert and Newton are really the only two worthy of a pick this high, and they will most likely be off the board before the 10th pick. The Redskins need a receiving threat for whoever their quarterback may be, and Julio Jones is an outstanding player at the position who has great intangibles, as well as amazing blocking skills.

### 9. Dallas Cowboys: Tyron Smith Offensive tackle, USC

The Cowboys had one of the worst offensive line performances in the league last year, and in order to keep Tony Romo healthy, they must protect him. Tyron Smith is clearly the best offensive line talent in the draft, so look for him to fall to the Cowboys here. Dallas has all the weapons on offense; protecting the quarterback is the final piece of the puzzle.

### 8. Tennessee Titans: J.J. Watt Defensive end, Ohio State

After solidifying their offensive needs with guys like Chris Johnson and Kenny Britt in past drafts, the Titans looked to try and solidify their defensive line last year, drafting DE Derrick Morgan. The Titans defensive front has not been the same since the departure of Albert Haynesworth, and I feel Watt is an excellent fit for the 4-3 defense in Tennessee. Watt can make an immediate impact opposite Jason Babin, who had 12.5 sacks in 2010

### 7. San Francisco 49ers: Patrick Peterson Cornerback, LSU

A steal at the seventh pick, Peterson contains all the skills you would want to find in a defensive back. A great field manager and ball hawk with an amazing 40 and shutdown coverage skill, the 49ers will be pleased to land the best DB in the draft.

### 6. Cleveland Browns: Nick Fairley Defensive tackle, Auburn

There are a lot that the Browns could do with this pick. A defensive end would be a solid choice; however, DaQuan Bowers' injuries and Robert Quinn's absence from the field bode question marks for these two stars. I think Nick Fairley would be an excellent force at nose tackle for Cleveland's 3-4 defense and can make an immediate impact.

### 5. Arizona Cardinals: Blaine Gabbert Quarterback, Missouri

Max Hall and John Skelton are obviously not the future in Arizona, and if Gabbert is on the board at No. 5, I think he would be an excellent choice. Gabbert has the skill set to be a great quarterback and is arguably the best in the draft.

### 10. Washington Redskins: Julio Jones Wide receiver, Alabama

Jones was always known to be a first-round talent, but his impressive performance at the NFL combine really vaulted him up into top-10 consideration. He is perfect for the Redskins, whose recent selections at the receiver position have not panned out. In Jones, Washington gets a 1,000-yard receiving collegiate player who is deceptively fast and could cause matchup problems for opposing defenses.

### 9. Dallas Cowboys: J.J. Watt Defensive end, Wisconsin

With the draft's best defensive line prospects being gobbled up quickly, Dallas has to grab one before it's too late. Watt, who is one of the larger defensive end prospects, could provide Dallas with a player to put opposite DeMarcus Ware.

### 8. Tennessee Titans: Robert Quinn Defensive end, North Carolina

It's amazing what a year can do for a prospect, as Quinn was a sure-fire, top-five pick before NCAA rule violations caused him to miss his entire senior year as a Tar Heel. As a junior, Quinn had 11 sacks and was on pace to have a record-setting senior year. He has all the tools necessary to be a force on the edge for Tennessee, whose aging defensive line needs a spark.

### 7. San Francisco 49ers: Patrick Peterson Cornerback, LSU

The "safest" pick in this year's draft class falls right into the lap of the 49ers. San Francisco lucks out, as no team above them has an urgent need at cornerback, and this LSU product should be able to upgrade the 49ers' aging pass defense, as well as help out in the return game.

### 6. Cleveland Browns: A.J. Green Wide receiver, Georgia

The Browns simply need a playmaker on the offensive side of the ball and Green fits the mold as the best wide receiver prospect in this year's draft. Cleveland quarterback Colt McCoy should be very happy with this selection because A.J. Green has the makings to be an all-out monster in terms of offensive production.

### 5. Arizona Cardinals: Von Miller Linebacker, Texas A&M

The Cardinals' two biggest needs this offseason are quarterback and linebacker, and with the two top quarterbacks already taken, Arizona isn't in the right spot to reach for another signal-caller in the top five picks. Instead, they fall back on Miller, who just happens to be the NCAA's leader in sacks last season. The Cardinals have had a string of quality linebackers; Miller provides the youth and aggressiveness Arizona needs to get some pressure off the edge.

CROSSFIRE page A9

**CROSSFIRE** continued from **A8**

**4. Cincinnati Bengals: A.J. Green**  
Wide receiver, Georgia

With the departure of Chad Ochocinco and Terrell Owens, Cincinnati needs a weapon for Carson Palmer to throw to (if they want to keep him happy). Green is without a doubt the best receiver in the draft; look for him to fit in Cincinnati as the No. 2 receiver.

**3. Buffalo Bills: Von Miller**  
Linebacker, Texas A&M

A beast of an athlete who could really help out a 3-4 defense such as the Bills' with his skills, Miller would provide an immediate impact. In my opinion, Miller could be a potential defensive rookie of the year and pro bowler.

**2. Denver Broncos: Marcell Dareus**  
Defensive tackle, Alabama

With John Fox's new 4-3 defensive scheme, Dareus can work as a tremendous pass rusher and run stopper in this defense. Dareus is the cream of the crop of D-linemen in this draft, and John Fox might pick him up from the airport himself if drafted.

**1. Carolina Panthers: Cam Newton**  
Quarterback, Auburn

Although I really don't agree with the pick, it doesn't look like the Panthers are going to go in another direction. Newton has the size, strength and skill, but he has to learn to play like an NFL quarterback and is definitely going to be a project player before any major success will be seen.

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

**4. Cincinnati Bengals: Blaine Gabbert**  
Quarterback, Missouri

The Bengals' starting quarterback Carson Palmer has made it perfectly clear that he has no desire to stay in Cincinnati, and with the current NFL lockout, I think the Bengals will look to the draft to replace their starter before he is even allowed to leave. They will land Gabbert, who is thought to be the most pro-ready quarterback of this class.

**3. Buffalo Bills: Nick Fairley**  
Defensive tackle, Auburn

While Blaine Gabbert is a trendy pick here, The Bills simply need a presence on the defensive line a little bit more. Buffalo finished last in the NFL in rushing yards allowed per game (169.6), despite being third best in the league in passing yards allowed per game (192.0).

**2. Denver Broncos: Marcell Dareus**  
Defensive tackle, Alabama

This has been almost a consensus pick among all expert mock drafts out there simply because it makes very good sense. Dareus has distanced himself from Auburn's Nick Fairley as the best defensive line prospect of this year's class and could immediately help a Denver defense that finished 31st in the league in rushing yards allowed per game (154.6).

**1. Carolina Panthers: Cam Newton**  
Quarterback, Auburn

Carolina had major problems on the offensive side of the ball last season. Panther fans have made it well known that they don't think Jimmy Clausen can get the job done, and if Carolina does go after a quarterback, I think Newton is their best fit.

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

**SOFTBALL** continued from **A8**

score and Jelnick to reach second safely. That was all the offense the Pirates and Paisley would need to put away the Knights.

"Every conference game is a must-win in our eyes, and I give a lot of credit to our young team by coming out and knowing they needed to improve, and they did and got the win," said Head Coach Tracey Kee.

The weekend got off to a rocky start as the Pirates dropped both games Saturday in extra innings. In the first game, Paisley pitched another great game, going 11 innings and giving up just one run on five hits. She also struck out 11 batters.

"That was my biggest mental battle of the season so far. It was our first big loss," said Paisley.

UCF pitcher Diana Rojas held the Pirates in check as she also went all 11 innings but only gave up three hits. Freshman Alex Fieldhouse played well, recording two of the three Pirate hits in the game.

ECU would come from behind to tie the game at two in the bottom of the seventh on a Jimenez pinch-hit single. Jelnick tripled to left center with one out and came around to score on Jimenez's single to right center.

The Pirates again would have to come from behind in

the eighth inning as the Knights took a 3-2 lead in the top of the inning. Nathalie Land would come around to score on a Marissa Menendez single to center.

ECU would not go quietly as Fieldhouse led off the eighth with a double. Kai Clark then advanced Fieldhouse to third on a sacrifice bunt. Fieldhouse would be left at third after two groundouts would finish the contest.

The Pirates will now host rival N.C. State for a double header on Wednesday. First pitches are scheduled for 4 and 6 p.m. inside the ECU Softball Stadium.

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

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Register with DKMS as a bone marrow donor! ECANS will be sponsoring a donor drive on April 14th from 9am-1pm at the College of Nursing. Please visit [www.GetSwabbed.org](http://www.GetSwabbed.org) for more information.

The Rising Leaders Circle and Phi Sigma Pi present, "Rock your Resume." Students are invited to learn resume strengthening techniques from ECU's Career Center on Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. in Bate 1032.

Benefit concert on Thursday, April 14th at 9pm at Tipsy Teapot (409 Evans Street) to raise money for disaster relief in Japan. All proceeds are going to the Red Cross. For more information, contact [ayscuae08@students.ecu.edu](mailto:ayscuae08@students.ecu.edu)

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