



## BRIEFS

### Streaker receives clothes at first court appearance

#### Staff Reports

John Sieglinger, who streaked at a football game against Southern Miss, appeared in court yesterday.

He faced charges of misdemeanor trespassing and misdemeanor indecent exposure, reported WITN.

Seiglinger streaked across the field at half time during the game last month.

He has been banned from the university's campus for life and his next court date is in Jan. 27.

His clothes were returned to him during the hearing and he apologized for not realizing the military was being honored at the time of the incident.

### State holiday 'Booze It & Lose It' campaign begins

#### Staff Reports

State and local law enforcement have stepped up patrol as part of the Holiday "Booze It & Lose It" campaign.

The campaign began Sunday and will continue until Jan. 2 in attempts to remove impaired drivers from state roads.

In 2010, there were 1,017 alcohol-related crashes in the state during the holiday campaign, which ran at the same time last year.

Last year, there were 31 fatalities and 728 injuries, with more than 3,800 motorists driving while impaired.

Over 13,000 checkpoints and patrols were conducted.

### Judge swears in new mayor of Greenville

#### Staff Reports

Greenville's new mayor was sworn in Monday at 6 p.m. in City Hall.

Allen Thomas joined returning council members Rose Glover, Marion Blackburn, Calvin Mercer, Kandie Smith and Max Joyner Jr., reported The Daily Reflector.

Special Judge Marvin K. Blount III administered the Oath of Office to Thomas and the council members.

Thomas is 42 and the owner of a medical software company, who defeated former two-time mayor Pat Dunn in November.

### Gas prices fall nationally

#### Staff Reports

In the last two weeks, national gas prices have dropped 9 cents, according to Lundberg Survey of fuel prices.

According to WNCT, midgrade gas is currently at \$3.46 a gallon and premium at \$3.57.

Diesel gas is down a nickel and New Mexico is reported to have some of the cheapest gas in the nation at \$2.84 a gallon.

**GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?**

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## Board votes to increase tuition 9.5 percent

Megan Stalls  
STAFF WRITER

The university Board of Trustees voted 7-5 Friday to recommend a tuition increase.

The finance committee proposed two measures that the board had to choose between. One would implement a 9.5 percent increase for resident undergraduates and a 9.9 percent increase for out-of-state students and graduate students. The second selection would be a 9.7 percent increase for each category of student. The board voted to approve the first option.

The university lost \$49 million in state funding in the past year, meaning they lost 16.1 percent of their operating budget. A tuition increase last year helped add \$9 million to

their credit, but, as Rick Niswander said in an interview with WNCT, the university is still \$40 million in the red.

"We go through this every year," said Carol Mabe, vice chair for the Board of Trustees. "We generally start about six months before, analyzing data and discussing options. But it's a very difficult process."

Josh Martinkovic, the university's SGA President, is the 13th member of the Board of Trustees and was against the increase, saying that there could be a bigger gap between students who could afford the tuition increase and those who could not.

> TUITION page A2

### Tuition increases for NC schools

UNC-CH	6.5% increase + \$2,800 over five years
UNC-Pembroke	7.1% increase
NCSU	6.4% increase + \$1,170 over five years
ECU	9.5% (undergrad, in-state) 9.9% (grad, out-of-state)

## Dining halls now offer study space to students

Melanie Jock  
STAFF WRITER

Both Todd and West End Dining Halls will be open late Nov. 28 through Dec. 14 to provide students with a safe, quiet place to study on campus.

The decision came when Campus Living realized the need for extra study spaces for students. The dining halls give on-campus students the opportunity to escape from their dorms and also avoid the library, which becomes crowded during exam time.

Students can maximize the halls, which will be monitored by professional staff as well as Resident Advisors to keep noise level down, thus keeping students focused on studying.

The conversion of dining halls to study halls occurred during the Fall 2010 semester as well, and so far numbers have increased in student attendance.

"What we've seen, based on numbers from last fall to this fall, the numbers have exploded," said Food Service Director Joyce Sealey.

The first three days last year brought in 119 students at Todd Dining Hall and 146 students at West End. This year, numbers have risen to 322 students at Todd and 400 at West End from Monday, Nov. 28 to Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Based on this increase, Sealey expects the numbers to only get higher. She believes this is due to better advertisement this year and



ALLISON ZAUCHA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

> STUDY page A2

Students take advantage of the extended hours of the dining hall for studying.

## Schools offer dual enrollment

Melanie Jock  
STAFF WRITER

The Career College and Promise program passed under the Appropriations Act of 2011 under Governor Bev Perdue allows high school students to earn an associate's degree while enrolled in high school.

This act is part of the ongoing initiative to help students receive postsecondary education or assist in preparation for a career field. The program allows students to dual enroll with a local community college while finishing high school to receive a tuition-free education.

In her speech last February, Perdue said this gives students a new motivation to stay in school because, for many families, it may be the first time a family member is given a clear path for success.

"It gives first-generation college students the chance to earn credit," said Associate Director of Admissions Tarrick Cox.

Cox feels that the program will be beneficial for future students of the university.

"I believe the program will provide us with students that are better academically prepared for the rigor of the academic work of a four-year college," he said.

Pitt Community College is among the 58 community colleges in the state that allow high school students to earn credit.

"I think it will be a big help

> CAREER page A2

## Police seek suspects in shootings



SERGEI TROFIMOV | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Police presence will increase after the establishment of a new task force.

Melanie Jock  
STAFF WRITER

The Greenville Police Department is searching for possible suspects in the shooting of two males in Pirate's Cove Apartment Complex at 12:40 a.m. on Sunday.

According to Chief of Police William J. Anderson, police responded to a fight that broke out in Building 3277 during a birthday party held by residents of the complex. A group of 10-12 males described as "Crip Gang Members" refused to pay the \$2 entry fee and tried to force their

way into the party.

A fight broke out inside the apartment, which moved into the breezeway, where the shooting occurred.

Demetrius Lamar Boone, 18, was part of the group trying to get into the party and was a victim of the shooting. He was transported to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for gunshot wounds and was later pronounced dead.

The other victim, Rayshawn Sinatra Nobles, 18, was also taken to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for a puncture wound, but police are currently unsure of how he received the injury. It has been reported that he may have been hit with a car.

There is no evidence of whether the party was gang affiliated; however, police believe Boone is a possible gang member. They have found a picture of Boone on Facebook, where he is seen flashing a gang sign.

Since this shooting marks the seventh homicide in Greenville in 2011, and the fourth one since Nov. 17, Greenville Police are stepping

up with a response to address the outbreaks.

They have released a statement of how to handle the current violence, which Williams discussed during a press conference held on Sunday.

The first is to form Pitt County Violent Crime and Gang Task Force, which will meet to devise a response plan to the recent violent crimes. The group will meet today to develop the plan based on Criminal Intelligence to target known gang leaders, members and associates.

Second, Williams plans to organize a meeting with owners and managers of large apartment complexes to address parties held at the apartments. He also wants to discuss the impact social media has in attracting non-residents to their complexes, as well as how law enforcement can help deal with the issues that result.

The victims, Nobles and Boone,

> CRIME page A2

## INSIDE

### OPINION

Should we teach more comprehensive sex education in schools? Read Abby Brockmeyer's take in Opinion! **A4**

### LIFESTYLES

Turn to Lifestyles for some creative holiday gift ideas for students on a college budget! **A6**

### SPORTS

Turn to Sports to find out which football player is our male Pirate-Allstar of the Fall. **A8**

## WEATHER

74°F/ 59°F

Partly Sunny



GRAPHICS FROM ENTHROPIA.COM

## ONLINE



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

**TUITION** continued from A1

“(Martinkovic) sits in on all the meetings,” said Mabe, vice chair for the Board of Trustees. “He is the voice — the representative — for the students. He also acts as the swing vote.”

“Our saying is, ‘access and success,’” Mabe said. “With this tuition increase, we are charging more, but we’re still offering an affordable, quality education. And we’re still in the lower quartile of our peers, regarding tuition and fees.”

Mabe emphasized that students understand the reasoning behind the increase. “We’re not just a bunch of curmudgeons that come in to the meeting and say, ‘Oh! Let’s raise tuition!’” she said. “We’re charged with giving our students a quality education, and we want to make sure that students 20 years from now will have the same quality education.”

Some students do not support the increase, regardless of the reasoning behind it. “I honestly don’t want to pay

any more money than I do already,” said David Adams, a construction management major. “I don’t get what (the money is) supposed to be going to. I mean, we’re supposed to be in a budget cut.” “I don’t like it at all,” said Lauren Willie, an accounting major from New Jersey. “I’m a senior, but I won’t be graduating on time. So it’ll still affect me.”

The university is not the only one in the UNC system to raise its tuition. Trustees at UNC-Chapel Hill voted last month to raise tuition by 6.5 percent, plus \$2,800 over the next five years. If the increase goes into effect, in-state undergraduates will pay \$7,795 and out-of-state undergraduates will pay \$28,442. In-state graduate students will pay \$9,689 and out-of-state graduate students will pay \$25,779.

Students at UNC-Pembroke will see a 7.1 percent increase in tuition. Both in-state and out-of-state undergraduate tuition will increase

by \$199, as well as the tuition for in-state and out-of-state graduate students. Overall, the cost to attend the university will by 4.3 percent higher than in the 2010-2011 academic year.

The trustees at N.C. State University also voted to increase their tuition by 6.4 percent, plus an extra \$1,170 to be utilized over the next five years. If the increase is approved, tuition will be up by more than nine percent for undergraduate students and 15 percent for graduate students.

Currently, university students pay 30 percent of their annual tuition fees, while the university pays 70 percent. The tuition increases for these and other universities will go before the UNC Board of Governors in February, and they will be responsible for approving the changes.

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

**STUDY** continued from A1

from word of mouth.

Both dining halls hold 650 students each, so room is still available for students wanting to utilize the dining halls as study space.

Campus Living and Dining also feels that this is a safe alternative to studying in the library since students will not have to travel across campus in the dark.

There was a fear of students walking through campus at night trying to get to the library, said Sealey.

“Students can study at a place that’s more close to their home, where they can come out and get into groups and study if they need to,” she said.

“It’s great because I live in Clement, which is 100 feet away,” said Robert Golias, a sophomore history major who uses West End to study.

The close-to-home study spaces are receiving a positive reaction from students on campus.

“I’ve been a couple times already,” said Golias. “It’s better than the library because it’s quiet and not as

crowded.”

Freshman political science major Alex Puente agrees.

“I’ll probably use it,” Puente said. “I like it because I can go there with friends and we can have a table to study.”

Along with providing a quiet place for students to study, the halls also provide other services to benefit students.

Both Golias and Puente both like the free drinks and snacks that the dining hall provides. This food replaces the usual midnight breakfast provided during exam week. Sealey said that replacing this meal can fund food for many days, rather than just one night.

Wireless signal has also been strengthened to accommodate students, but students may still face issues while logged in.

“The Wi-Fi can be hit and miss,” said Golias. “But it can be a good thing because it keeps me off Facebook.”

This is a problem that Campus Living has been

working on since December of last year, when the first late night dining hall transformation occurred.

Overall, Campus Living and Dining is excited about the opportunity to help students excel on their exams.

Sealey feels that the study halls share the common goal of Campus Dining, to create community in the dining halls.

“I think it’s a great service,” she said. “It gives (students) another opportunity to create community with the people they are studying with either in their halls or from their classes. It gives them another chance to congregate and create a better community for ECU.”

The study halls are limited to only on-campus residents. A student will be admitted when his or her key fob is shown at the door. The doors will open at 9 p.m. and will stay open until 1 a.m.

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

**CAREER** continued from A1

to students,” said Alton Wadford, the director of the program at Pitt.

He believes it will be beneficial to students since the similar dual enrollment program has been a success already.

The student may choose three paths, including the career and technical pathway, the college transfer pathway named Core 44 and the cooperative innovative high school program, which targets students at risk of dropping out.

Pitt offers the college-transfer pathway, as well as career and technical education, which allows the students to earn a certificate or diploma.

Since the act goes into effect Jan. 1, Pitt is preparing for the launching of the program, which Wadford said means they are in the process

of advising students.

To qualify, the eligible junior or senior student must have a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate college readiness with the passing of an assessment test.

While enrolled, the student must keep a GPA of 2.0 or higher. Once completed, the student is on track to earn either a diploma or 30 college credit hours that he or she can bring to college.

Programs like this would provide students with the opportunity to not only gain college experience, but to save money on tuition expenses he or she would face as well.

According to College Board, the average price for a year of college for in-state students totals \$8,244 in tuition and fees, and a community college student would face \$2,963 in tuition and fees.

By taking the college transfer pathway, a student has the opportunity to cut a year of tuition, if he or she earns the 30 credit hours available.

Sarah Melton, a senior health fitness specialist major, dual enrolled in a local community college while still in high school, taking both history and English classes. Her classes were similar to what a student would face while on the college transfer pathway.

Melton felt that she benefited greatly from the classes, which earned her 12 credit hours and allowed her to graduate earlier than she intended.

“The content was clear. It was high school level,” she said. “But the biggest benefit was to graduate (from college) in three years instead of four.”

Since Melton attended a small private school, her college teachers would come to her school to teach classes. However, some students would need to travel to Pitt to attend the classes offered.

“Some will come to campus, some teachers go to the high schools and some classes are offered online,” said Wadford.

Perdue’s Promise program replaces existing college credit classes, such as dual enrollment and Huskin’s courses.

The replacing of these courses with Perdue’s program allows the state to face no new costs that would occur.

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

**CRIME** continued from A1

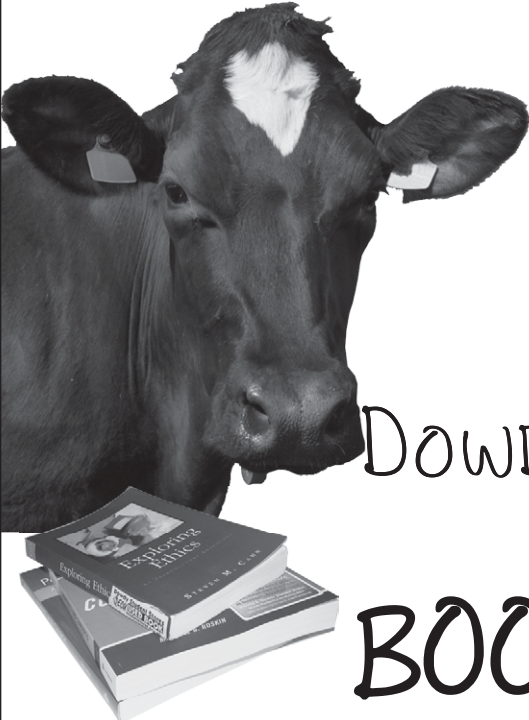
are not students at the university or residents of Pirate’s Cove. Williams hopes that addressing the issues of social media attracting non-students to student complexes might cut down on the violence that occurs within the apartment community.

Finally, Williams wants to

meet with black community leaders to discuss the issue of black-on-black crime, which accounts for 82 percent of the homicides in Greenville since 1990.

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




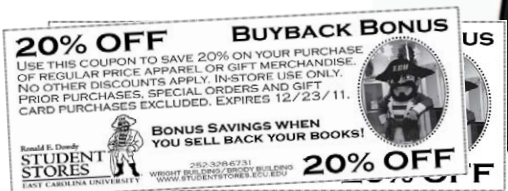


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Thursday  
Dec. 8.....8 am - 7 pm

Friday  
Dec. 9.....8 am - 5 pm

Saturday  
Dec. 10.....11 am - 3 pm

Monday thru Wednesday  
Dec. 12-14.....7:30 am - 7 pm

Thursday  
Dec. 15.....7:30 am - 5 pm

Friday  
Dec. 16.....8 am - 5 pm

**Buyback Trailer on College Hill Drive**

(located across from the Marching Band Practice Field)

Wednesday thru Friday  
Dec. 7-9.....9 am - 4 pm

Monday thru Thursday  
Dec. 12-15.....9 am - 4 pm

**Buyback Trailer by West End Dining**

Wednesday thru Friday  
Dec. 7-9.....9 am - 4 pm

Monday thru Thursday  
Dec. 12-15.....9 am - 4 pm

## Cash for books

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## PIRATE RANTS

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

Which one of you Ho Ho Ho's wants to jingle Santa's bells?

No, I don't want the flyer you're trying to hand me at Wright Plaza.

No arrests, drinking tickets, pregnancy scares, STIs or failing grades: I am the 1 percent.

Oh, what? You need me to email you my final exam study guide? HOW ABOUT NO.

So if Pirate Rant Lady and Pirate Rant Gentleman are getting married, does this mean that PeeDee will be the Officiate?

Believe me, I'm not interested in your boyfriend. I'm out of his league.

The number of times you can quote "Mean Girls?" The limit does not exist.

She asked me how to spell "orange."

Does a restraining order mean we can't have sex any more?

Oh, you don't like my tattoos? I'll keep that in mind next time I actually ask for your opinion.

If only you knew the all the places and things that I've peed on downtown.

My new goal in life is to just manage to graduate and leave Greenville without being shot! Please let the next year go by quickly!

If she's still taking mirror pics of herself, she's too young for you, bro.

Don't ask if I'm going home with someone tonight. I shaved. Understood statement.

Slow clap to the guy that I tried to sleep with Tuesday. You came as you were putting the condom on.

That awkward moment when you hear him brag to his buddies and you know you faked.

Part of me wants to rub it in my ex-boyfriend's face that I'm no longer a virgin.

Thanks to last week's paper, I know what "coitus" is. Too bad every girl says I'm "too small."

You're too hard to please. It's just easier to blow you and buy things for myself.

Fellas: If you're struggling to sweep your girl off her feet, you're probably dating a fat chick.

Ladies: Stop pretending to be stupid for attention. You are a woman, not a sea lion.

Clitoris? I've never heard of that Pokemon.

I've done well in school my whole life. I'm not that smart, really. I just follow directions. It's not that hard, people...

What makeup do you use? Nutella?

I love it when the bus drivers sing. It gives me a little entertainment at the end of the day.

To the girl on the third floor at Joyner eating the chips LOUDLY with her mouth open: Didn't your mother teach you how to chew with your mouth closed?

## WEB POLL

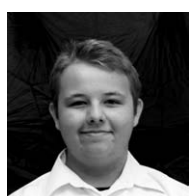
**Do you agree with the tuition increase?**

Vote online at  
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TIM WEAVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

## Increasing tuition and decreasing students



**Micah Lockhart**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

*Freshman English major*

The Board of Trustees met on Dec. 2 to discuss and vote on tuition increases. The result of the vote was 7 to 5 in favor of raising tuition for the 2012-2013 academic year.

This included a \$505 increase for in-state undergraduate students, a \$547 increase for in-state graduate students, a \$1,740 increase for out-of-state undergraduate students and a \$1,584 increase for out-of-state graduate students. This will also include a \$95 student fee increase. The tuition for Brody School of Medicine could be raised \$1,500 and the School of Dental Medicine will raise its tuition \$1,365.

The reason that students are experiencing such significant increases in tuition is because for many years the state issued a large portion of the payment. Because of the continuously growing national debt, North Carolina is unable to sustain such a large amount of fiscal responsibility. Therefore, it must pass it on to the students.

While this system is logical and obviously is the action deemed best for our society at the current time, I cannot face the student body of ECU and honestly state that I agree with these increases.

I find the current rise of tuition to be a cheap Band-Aid slapped on a wound that has been open for many years. While the economy has been abused for the past 10 or 20 years, a large percentage of the abuse wasn't showing. The government was able to cover up the bruises and blame them on a common issue to which we could all avert our attention.

Slowly, our attention has been brought back to

the cuts and sores that have grown worse during the time that our attention was absent. Now, since these wounds were not dealt with at their inception, the government is forced to tend to their past mistakes. The most logical way presented to them was to begin shaving away at expenses. The time has come where the only thing left to cut is education. What a sad day it is, indeed.

In a previous article, I wrote, "Education is, put simply, the basis for everything progressive in life." I find this to be more evident in our current society. Yet, the individuals elected by the people to defend our best interests are still ignoring it.

And because of the current economic crisis, it is blatantly obvious that someone needs to get an education. Is it possible that if our current leaders were given top-priority education that we would not be in such turmoil today? And even if the answer to that question is "no," what negative consequences could come from giving such a quality of education to the posterity of this nation?

The basic principal of this entire issue is where the government places education on its list of priorities. And while the intentions of the government may not contain such malice as displayed in their cutthroat budget cuts, it does not change the fact that there will be thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of students who will no longer have the monetary ability to continue their education. It is one thing to see an individual who lacks the motivation for higher learning but it is another to see an individual who strives for more, stifled by the economical stupidity of those by whom he is governed.

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

## STAFF INFORMATION

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**Abby Brockmeyer**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

*Senior communication major*

Sex is all around us in everyday life, so why should it not be a major class one has to take in order to graduate college? With 61 percent of students dropping out after having a baby in college, maybe it is time to make sex no longer a taboo topic by having a class centered on talking about the most intimate and squeamish subject for us college students.

Why not go as far as having the professors using the language we use, talking about stereotypes of men and women having sex and addressing this activity with ease and confidence?

Sex is something that many of us do. Sometimes, we are extremely stupid when doing it. Statistics say that 400,000 people ages 18-24 have unprotected sex. With that number, I'd say some added information and a new teaching technique is in need.

The New York Times reported about a teacher by the name of Al Vernacchio, from a private high school in Philadelphia, who is paving the way for a new modern way of teaching. He knows what students do and how they do it. So now, his main focus is to stray away from the age-old approach that all of us have been taught.

This old method is "abstinence until marriage is the only acceptable choice, contraceptives don't work and premarital sex is physically and emotionally harmful. Abstinence is usually best, but if you must have sex, here are some ways to protect yourself from pregnancy and disease."

This just doesn't work for us anymore.

A teacher like Vernacchio at ECU would be welcomed with open arms to the student body. Relating to students is the biggest issue professors have with their students. Getting lost in translation is a constant dilemma professor's face. They just cannot seem to bridge the gap of understanding. Students even gape at them with open mouths and that eerie silence every class period, not understanding the course material.

Vernacchio has a way of addressing a topic head-on so that students don't have time to be shy or apprehensive on talking to him about it. A female student "who 'admitted' to liking sex as much as boys did said that Vernacchio's consistent affirmation of the variety of sexual preferences ('Guys aren't necessarily naturally hornier than girls — there's a huge social piece of this,' he told the class) helped her shake her sense of deviance and shame."

A teacher that makes it okay to talk about masturbation, numerous

> GET SOME page A5

## POLL RESULTS

**Are you going to fill out the SOIS for your professors?**

<b>Yes</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Some</b>	<b>26%</b>

# Giving thoughtful opinions on SOIS



**Ben Cochran**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Senior nursing major

Another semester is coming to a close. As we wrap up our classes, prepare for finals and struggle to maintain our focus for the last academic push, there is one tiny, often overlooked detail that we, as students, really need to take more seriously: the Student Opinion of Instruction Survey.

No, I can promise you that Chuck Rich, senior assessment associate in the Office of Institutional Assessment did not pay me to write this; I do it of my own volition. If that name sounds familiar, it's because every semester he sends out what seems like dozens of emails requesting that we take some time to evaluate our classes and instructors via the online survey.

Frequently, his emails are then further forwarded to us by way of advisors, department chairs and individual instructors. Not unlike a bum panhandling for drugs, we eventually get so annoyed that it's easier just to flip him our two cents than it is to come up with excuses why we can't.

I'll admit it: Many times, I have taken the survey out of haste without giving any thought to my responses just to appease the powers that be. Sometimes I have filled out the survey just so I could slam my professor for failing me even though I was partially (see: mostly) to blame. Other times, I responded because my professor promised to add points to our final grade if we took the survey.

True, the responses are totally anonymous, but the easy work-around is to write your name in the free response section. This way our professor would know who gets the extra credit. But not even a freshman is naïve enough to think that putting your name on a survey with harshly critical remarks is a good idea.

So the end result is an almost unanimous response rate that indicates that the professor has achieved the highest marks possible in every single category. If those kinds of results don't raise an

eyebrow or two from the astute observers in the Office of Institutional Assessment, then whom can I talk to about assessing the assessors in the Assessment Office?

I don't care how much you hate a teacher; if he or she is willing to toss you a few extra points on your grade, you will say whatever you have to say in order to get your bonus. Unfortunately, that speaks more to our tendencies of selling our moral integrity in order to prop up our academic integrity. But then again, we are the Pirates of ECU. If that describes you, then I have an amazing tutoring proposition for you. Stay classy, ECU.

So if the majority of responses are given as a way of quickly appeasing the administration, subjectively bashing the teachers or underhandedly boosting our grades, why do we still have this system in place?

I like to carefully fill out my SOIS because I believe in accurate feedback. But I know that any score I give will be diluted by all the people that just click straight through and generally just don't seem to care.

The only way our feedback will mean anything is if we take some time and fill out the free-response sections. Yes, it does take more time to do that. But it is immeasurably more valuable information. There could be any number of reasons why a person would rate a professor a certain way, not the least of which being that he or she was simply clicking in a straight row. When you have a system that assesses instruction based on ratings that have the very real potential to mean absolutely nothing, you have a significant problem.

So please, when you're filling out your SOIS, please do so prayerfully. Don't start sliding on the slippery slope of apathy. If we don't take a stand and evaluate our instructors with conviction, then we are just perpetuating the cycle of bad teachers and bad classes. So do something about it. Just make sure you do it by midnight tonight!

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

# Be positive you're negative



**Morgan Logan**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

Senior public health major

Dec. 1 is globally recognized as World AIDS Day. This year marked the 30-year milestone of AIDS being recognized as a disease by the Centers for Disease Control. World AIDS Day is intended to spread awareness of this life-threatening disease that claims millions of lives internationally.

ECU also joined in on the event. Campus Recreation and Wellness held a Wellness Passport event on the mall between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in order to enlighten students further on the subject of AIDS. There was also an HIV/AIDS discussion panel in Hendrix Auditorium at 5 p.m. that day to further discuss the issue. I had the privilege to be a part of the program on the mall and having the chance to interact with students.

The most important asset to the program was the opportunity for students to get tested for free, right there on the mall, for HIV. The test didn't require the use of needles and only 20 minutes of your time. The student would have their mouth swabbed and their results read to them, individually,

in the conference room at Student Health Services. And to protect identity, the person was given a number that corresponded to their test rather than using his or her name.

Although I was appreciative of the events that occurred, I feel like more must be done about the transmission of HIV/AIDS, and not just on Dec. 1. When I say "more," I mean education. Honestly, HIV is one of the hardest STIs to catch. This is because it is a fragile disease and once it is exposed to the air it is no longer infectious. That is not to say to air your partner's genitals out as a form of cleansing, of course.

But if I were to ask any of you what AIDS is, I'd pretty much get the same response: a breakdown of your immune system, full-blown HIV or the worst STI you can get. No doubt, all of these are (somewhat) true, but what do you really know about the disease?

Do you know that just because one is HIV-positive, they do not necessarily have AIDS? Or, did you know that as of 2009, there were 33.3 million people in the world living with HIV/AIDS, according to the AIDS webpage? Needless to say, these numbers will continue to increase. So what are you doing to prevent becoming a statistic?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the south has

the highest prevalence at 46 percent, in terms of AIDS diagnoses. By race, 46 percent of African Americans encompass the majority of AIDS diagnoses, followed by 25 percent of Hispanics. These demographics affect us specifically here in eastern N.C.

Fear tactics do not necessarily provoke change but education does. Students need to be further educated not just on HIV/AIDS but other sexually transmitted infections. I feel as if more education would lessen the stigma associated with STIs and getting tested.

I understand that it may be a little scary, or even a bit embarrassing, to make the appointment at Student Health or wherever you may choose, but it's better to know now than to let the problem advance. I know better than to speak of abstinence to a college audience, although there are plenty students here who do not engage in sexual activities.

I can only hope that you are taking the proper measures to being sexually responsible: condoms, monogamy and getting tested. Don't wait until the end of the year to get tested for HIV or any other STI. It's very important to be positive that you are indeed HIV-negative.

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

## GET SOME continued from A4

sexual partners, condoms vs. birth control and sluts vs. closet sluts? That opens the door for a whole new era of college classroom discussions.

This kind of class would go way beyond the regular sex education class offered on campus, with an overall direction taken to actually talk to the students, not shove down their throats the need for abstinence. This class would open up even the shyest of college students and make them comfortable enough to talk about a serious sex issue that they otherwise would have been too apprehensive to go to someone about.

Sex is in the vernacular of almost every college student's conversation you hear walking around campus on any given day. We are talking about it. Many of us participate in it, and we most certainly are not experts on it.

Having an expert talk the way we do, use the language that we use and discuss the issues centered around sex that we all have would be an ideal situation. With this new modern society, we need a new modern class to match our horny, sex-crazed selves.

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

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# Get creative with holiday gift ideas

Ashley Evans  
STAFF WRITER

With the holiday season approaching, Christmas shopping is in full swing. Unfortunately, this can be a stressful time for students. Not only do they have exams, but they are also trying to fit gifts into their already meager budget. Thankfully, there are many do-it-yourself gifts that won't break the bank.

While most of these supplies can be found at arts and crafts stores like Michael's and A. C. Moore, some can also be found at dollar stores for much cheaper.

Photos by Chelsea Gunter | The East Carolinian

## 5 Things we're obsessed with this month

### 1. Claymation Movies

We have seen them all more times than one humanly should, and still watch them every year. We know the "Nestor the Long Eared Christmas Donkey" song by heart, still choose between the Snow Miser and the Heat Miser, and have a hatred for Burgermeister Meisterburger, since he banned toys. And who could forget Baby New Year and his giant ears? These shows are classics and we're happy to watch them over and over again every year!



### 2. Holiday Drinks

Since when does McDonald's have a fancy café holiday drink? We love the new peppermint mocha and peppermint hot chocolate. And for an extra kick, there's peppermint mocha! Not overpowering, just the right blend of Christmas! Another favorite is Cook Out's eggnog milkshakes! We like drinking ourselves (soberly) into the holiday spirit!



### 3. Baking

'Tis' the season to bake! There's something especially cozy about putting on some holiday music and rolling out cookie dough. Using snowmen and gingerbread cookie cutters and decorating the cookies with sprinkles and icing once they're done really makes this recipe a holiday tradition!



### 4. Penguins

Stuffed penguins, decorations, cookie jars, everything ... so many penguins! It's the time of year for those adorable birds to come out of hiding and convince people with their cute expressions, to buy them for great gifts or holiday décor. This winter, penguin invasion makes anyone with a love for penguins beyond excited!



### 5. Winter Break

As the end of the semester approaches, we are more than ready for break! Exams have started taking over our lives and stressing us out, but it's not much longer until we can finally relax and take a breather. Come Dec. 15, we will be skipping out of Greenville with a huge weight off of our backs!



ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## For moms and grandmothers

### Wine Bottle Basket



**Supplies:**  
1 empty wine bottle  
1 small strand of mini lights  
Ribbon  
Potpourri  
Basket

Using an empty wine bottle, pour in a small amount of potpourri. Next, insert the lights in the bottle, remembering to leave the end out that can be plugged into the wall. Continue

putting the remaining potpourri into the bottle until full. Lastly, tie a bow around the neck of the bottle. Bunches of grapes and wine corks are also nice to hang from the neck of the bottle. Lastly, put it in a basket with a few wine glasses and candy! **Total cost: \$10 to \$15.**

### Initialed Cake Plate



**Supplies:**  
1 plastic cake plate with top  
Stickers of your choice  
Initial stickers  
Ribbon

Apply stickers of your choice to a washed and dried cake plate. Next, add mother or grandmother's initials using store bought stickers. Finally, tie a bow on the handle of the cake plate. **Total cost: \$10 to \$20.**

### Oven Mitt Treat Gift



**Supplies:**  
1 seasonal oven mitt  
1 spatula  
1 bag of cookie, brownie, muffin or cake mix  
Ribbon

Simply place the bag of mix inside of the oven mitt along with a spatula. Then tie ribbon around the mitt for decoration! **Total cost: \$4.**

## For dads and grandfathers

### Suds In a Bucket



**Supplies:**  
1 bucket  
1 bottle of car wash liquid  
1 bottle of tire cleaner  
Armor All  
Sponges or rags  
Rain-X

Place tissue paper in the bucket, followed by car wash liquid, tire cleaner, Armor All, sponges, Rain-X or any other car detailing accessories. Tie a ribbon around the handle or the widest part of the bucket. **Total cost: \$10.**

### Golfer's Coffee Basket with Club Covers



**Supplies:**  
1 seasonal wine bottle bag or 1 seasonal Christmas sock  
Chenille wire/pipe cleaners, googly eyes and red pompom balls (optional)  
1 bag of coffee  
1 pack of disposable coffee cups  
1 or 2 different choices of creamer  
Packets of Splenda, Equal,

Sugar etc. (optional)

Place a wine bag or Christmas sock on top of dad or Grandpa's clubs and immediately they are transformed into cute conversation pieces. Go a step farther and add antlers using chenille wire, eyes using buttons and a red nose using red pompom balls. Then, simply place the coffee, cups, creamer, and/or any other items in a basket with tissue paper. **Total cost: \$10 to \$15.**

## For sisters

### Magnetic Memo Board



**Supplies:**  
1 metal cookie sheet (any size or shape)  
Scrapbook paper, cloth material, tissue paper, etc.  
Stickers (optional)  
Binder clips  
Ribbon  
Magnets

Cover a metal cookie sheet with scrapbook paper, cloth material, tissue paper, newspaper or any other similar medium that you wish. Decorate the sheet using stickers, ribbon, magnets and beads. Finally, using a hot glue gun, glue binder clips onto the memo board to hold notes and pictures. **Total cost: \$5 to \$10.**

## For brothers

### Late-Night Provision Basket



**Supplies:**  
1 bowl  
1 or 2 cheesy movies from the \$5 bin  
A couple bags of popcorn  
Beer mug  
Candy  
Soda/Beer

There isn't much to putting this gift together. Find a nice "manly" bowl or basket, fill it with movies, popcorn, candy, beer mugs and beer. **Total cost: \$10 to \$15.**

## For significant others

### Personalized Photo Coasters



**Supplies:**  
4 CDs  
1 roll of shelf matting  
Spray adhesive  
Photographs  
Stickers, glitter, wording, etc.  
Clear transparency sheets  
Scrapbook paper

Spray one side of each CD generously with spray adhesive then place firmly down on shelf

matting. Once dry, cut the excess shelf matting to fit the circle of the CD. Spray the top of the CD with adhesive and then place a piece of scrapbook paper on top. Next, spray the top of this paper with adhesive and then arrange pictures, or mementos such as ticket stubs, to make a collage on top of the scrapbook paper. Finally, finish up by spraying adhesive on top of the pictures and cover with a clear transparency sheet. Cut all excess paper off around the CD. **Total cost: \$5 to \$8.**

### Coupon Book for Lovers



**Supplies:**  
Cardstock paper  
Printer

Create a quick and easy coupon book for your significant other by creating a document on your computer and making the page dimensions 7.125 x 3.25, or by using a template that can be found at Microsoft.

com. Create coupons for things you will do for them throughout the coming year. Make as many coupons as you want! A few ideas are coupons for massages, movie night and breakfast in bed. **Total cost: less than \$5.**

**"I love making homemade gifts because I love giving to others."**

- Eva Jones, La Grange, N.C.

# Campus resources help students deal with exams

**TJ Weaver**  
STAFF WRITER

With only a week left until exams, students are starting to pack themselves into a bustling Joyner Library. Every computer is in use, the library smells of Java City coffee and the chance of finding a private study room is slim. Many fellow Pirates pull all-nighters and eat less or more than normal during exam week; however, thanks to ECU's student services, there's an easier way to function.

Dr. Lisa Tyndall, of the Family Therapy Clinic, and Lauren Thorn, of the Center for Counseling and Student Development, both devote their time to making sure students reduce stress levels by giving advice on effective planning, study regimens for exams and how to deal with relationships during this time.

"Students pull all-nighters in order to cram as much information and studying into a short period of time," said Thorn, "which can take a physical toll on them. They're not eating right, they're not sleeping enough and therefore they end up having poor performances on exams because they're not actually planning ahead."

Tyndall, whose specialty lies in relationships between friends, family and loved ones, believes that exam week tests many student relationships and also adds a level of difficulty that's not usually present.

"A lot of times with students, relationships get in the way of properly preparing

for exams," said Tyndall. "If you're not managing these relationships, they can all come to the perfect storm. It's important to know how to manage those relationships in a proper way so that your significant other or family members can function as support."

Tyndall also suggests staying in contact with your friends or significant other by sending an occasional text or "hello" to let them know you're still there for them.

"The effects of not balancing your work and study with your family and friends can be damaging," said Tyndall. "During exam week, you have to be sure to check in with each other. It's important to find ways to nurture the relationship."

Along with stress, the use of "smart drugs" (Adderall, Ritalin and Modafinil) increases among college students nationwide during exams. The danger of their side effects goes ignored as students hope for a better grade.

"Anytime you're taking something that's not specifically prescribed, you're taking the risk of having a significant physical reaction to it," said Thorn. "There's no medication that takes the place of preparation. These drugs are stimulants. They increase the heart rate and when people use them (illegally) they're taking a risk."

The university strives for students to get the proper amount of studying done in a reasonable amount of time. The remodeling of Joyner



DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Family Therapy Clinic counsels students throughout the school year, giving advice and helping to reduce stress. (Photo Staged)

Library last semester and the creation of study halls on campus are for the students' use.

According to Thorn, there's even a yoga class (Dec. 7-8 at noon) at the Student Rec Center in room 238 lead by Ms. Diane Bradshaw titled, "Yoga for Finals," a class specifically designed for reducing stress during exams.

"(Bradshaw) is big on using yoga and other techniques to incorporate relax-

ation, and so she's been working with the Rec Center to do a yoga class and incorporate relaxation and therapeutic approaches," said Thorn.

Some students use the time in between each exam to either chill downtown with friends or to catch up on the hottest video game, instead of gradually preparing for their next exam. Thorn suggest that students use those extra days wisely.

"Exams are spaced out

for a reason," said Thorn. "Don't just spend the days off wasting time. Use your time wisely. Study with friends and make it fun. It doesn't have to be a solitary thing. Make it as enjoyable as possible."

Student counseling services are free through tuition fees and Tyndall suggests every student take advantage of the services.

"The student's primary resource is student counseling," said Tyndall. "Being

able to walk into the office, talk with someone and having not to pay for it is such a relief."

The Student Center for Counseling and Student Development, located in Umstead Hall, is currently taking all walk-ins during crisis hours, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and will be available from now until the last exam.

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

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## What were your favorite albums of 2011?

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## Jumping around the world

Student travels the globe by her jump rope

**Mike Davis**  
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

In the third-grade, \$5 could buy a nice pack of Pokémon cards from the convenience store, a week's worth of Mrs. Fields chocolate chip cookies from the school lunch line or maybe even enough candy to instantly make your teeth go rotten. But for Chelsea Guild, a junior communication major from Chapel Hill, \$5 went toward something that has proven more valuable than any holographic Pokémon card.

Since elementary school, Guild spent her afternoons not going to soccer or basketball practice, or riding bikes with the neighborhood kids, but locked in a gym vigorously jump roping for hours on end. After being introduced to the sport at a young age, Guild joined the Bouncing Bulldogs with her \$5 jump rope and began a quest that has taken her farther than the eye can see.

In no time, Guild rose to the top and was able to compete in her first international jump rope competition in the Virgin Islands while in the sixth-grade. "I started international travel when I was really young, and being away from home for months at a time. It was really crazy," said Guild.

But the ride didn't stop there, as two years later when Guild was in the eighth-grade, she competed at the Jump Rope World Championships in Australia. The Bouncing Bulldogs went two weeks before the event even started to do exhibitions and form a jump rope team. "It was a big honor to win, especially at 13, a world championship," said Guild, as she reminisced about the team placing second in the world.

Like most jump rope competitions, a team is judged based on a cumulative score of their eight individual events. The events, including most double-unders in 30 seconds, most single jumps and the double-dutch, test agility, endurance, style and creativity.

And through the countless hours Guild spent in the gym running, jumping, twisting and sweating, Guild and the Bulldogs have taught, competed, fundraised and helped create competitive jump rope teams around the world.

With the Bouncing Bulldogs, Guild and her team have traveled around the globe, competing on ESPN and in countries such as Japan, Canada and South



ALLISON ZAUCHA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Student Chelsea Guild has competed in jump rope competitions.

Africa. Because of the squad's world-renowned reputation, the Bouncing Bulldogs were asked to perform at the gymnastics, basketball and historical monuments at the 2009 Olympics in Beijing, China.

"It was really cool performing at the Olympics, but we are used to performing," said Guild. "It was just kind of a pride moment for me, because I feel like the Olympics are the best athletic venue, the biggest stage you can possibly go to."

Because Guild was the captain of her jumping were, her coach put the responsibility on her to make sure the other members of the team safe and under control. But despite jumping in front of thousands of eager spectators, the nerves didn't bother her, as she learned quickly that it was much harder to get around and order food than it was to flip and double-dutch. "I wasn't really nervous, I was just really stressed out for being in charge of 11 kids in a different country."

But even though Guild has stopped jump roping competitively, the sport will never leave her, as she is now a coach at Trinity Christian School. "On the Bouncing Bulldogs, you are always teaching your little kids, so coaching is something I learned on the Bouncing

Bulldogs," said Guild, as she talked about the change from jumper to teacher. "We have a saying that is, 'To teach is to learn twice.'"

With all of Guild's experience and travels in the sport of jump roping, her wealth of knowledge is accepted with open arms by the students and staff on the Trinity jump roping team. "She is very easy to work with and is very good at teaching the skills," said Sharon Martin, Trinity physical education teacher and head jump rope coach. "She'll show them a routine, and then go over it slowly for them. They respond very well to her."

Taking her teachings from the elementary, middle and high school level, Guild was at ECU on Sunday and did a clinic for kids in the Greenville community, ages five through 12, as she hoped to inspire the next generation of world class jump ropers.

With a resume of national and international competition wins, that \$5 jump rope she got back in the third-grade has definitely opened the world up to her. "You would never think that a jump rope would take you all around the world," said Guild.

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



## Pirate basketball alum named to NBDL team

### Staff reports

Former ECU basketball stand-out Jamar Abrams has earned one of 10 spots on the roster of the Maine Red Claws, an NBA Developmental League team in Portland, Maine. The Red Claws held its tryout camp earlier in November and Abrams was one of four players kept on the roster through tryouts.

Abrams played in more games, 124, than anyone in ECU history. He finished his career ranked 17th on the Pirates' all-time scoring list with 1,110 points. He is one of 14 players in school history to score over 1,000 points and grab more than 500 rebounds during his career. Abrams finished his career ranked fifth on the Pirates' career 3-point field goals and made the chart (175) with the sixth-highest 3-point shooting percentage (.389).

The Red Claws are the D-League affiliate of the Boston Celtics, Charlotte Bobcats and Philadelphia 76ers.

## Track and field breaks four school records

### Staff Reports

The ECU track and field program officially opened its 2011-12 indoor campaign Sunday at the Christopher Newport Holiday Open.

A total of four school records were broken, while six Pirates posted event titles in the various field disciplines. Additionally, ECU was responsible for 21 top-five finishes.

One of the most impressive performances of the day came from junior Joseph Samuels, who broke two-time Olympian Hector Cotto's record in the 60-meter hurdles - clocking in at 7.91 for third place. Classmate Stephen Hodapp won the pole vault in program-record fashion as well, matching teammates Henry Johnson and Aaron Zakula with a mark of 4.61 meters, but winning the event in a jump-off.

Sophomore Tania Minkins and junior Britney Kott also etched their names into the record books with new program standards in the 60-meter dash and 600-meter run, respectively. Minkins broke a 10-year standard with a time of 7.47 to claim second place, while Kott replaced her own record, checking in at 1:36.38 for second place in the event.

Junior All-America Tynita Butts topped the field in the high and long jump, recording marks of 1.78 and 5.94 meters, and was complemented by senior Abbey Way's personal-best 3.50 meters in the pole vault - a mark which was also good for first place.

A pair of the Pirate men's NCAA regional qualifiers from a season ago began their season with wins as senior Dennis Aliotta grabbed the title in the shot put by posting a throw of 17.28 meters, easily out-distancing the second-place finisher by 2.14. Junior Montrell Morrow joined Aliotta in the weight throw as the duo snatched first and second place with marks of 19.05 and 16.66 meters, respectively.

ECU's newcomers also fared well in their first meet in a Pirate uniform. Senior Rachel Boerner placed second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 58.70, while freshman Kayla Padgett ended up fifth in the shot put at 12.98 meters.

ECU continues its indoor exploits in the New Year, traveling to Blacksburg, Va., for the Virginia Tech Invitational. The meet is scheduled for Jan. 13-14 at the Rector Field House.

Have questions about the Sports section?

Contact the sports editor at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

# Hoping for a better 'Morrow'

## ECU drops first home game to Charlotte

Adam Bunn  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in 98 career games, ECU's Darrius Morrow didn't score a single point. As a result, for the first time this season, the Pirates have dropped two straight as ECU fell to the 49ers of Charlotte 76-64.

In a game that was fueled by runs from each team, it ended with the Pirates running themselves out of gas in a furious late rally.

Trailing by 19 points with just under six minutes to play, the Pirates unleashed a full court press that took the UNC-C lead down to just five after a 20-6 run in just over four minutes of game action.

After the quick rally by the Pirates, they seemed to be flat out of gas as the 49ers scored the last seven points, escaping Greenville with the 12-point win.

"I think we could've cut it to three, but we did expend a lot of energy," Head Coach Jeff Lebo said of the comeback attempt. "We were waxed at that point ... it's hard when you get down that much to finally get over the hump."

But ECU was unable to get over that hump. Morrow's struggles were emblematic of the entire offensive shooting performance on Saturday night. As a team, ECU shot just 31.9 percent on 22 of 69. Junior guard Miguel Paul led the way for the Pirates, scoring 22 points, but he hit just five of his 19 shots.

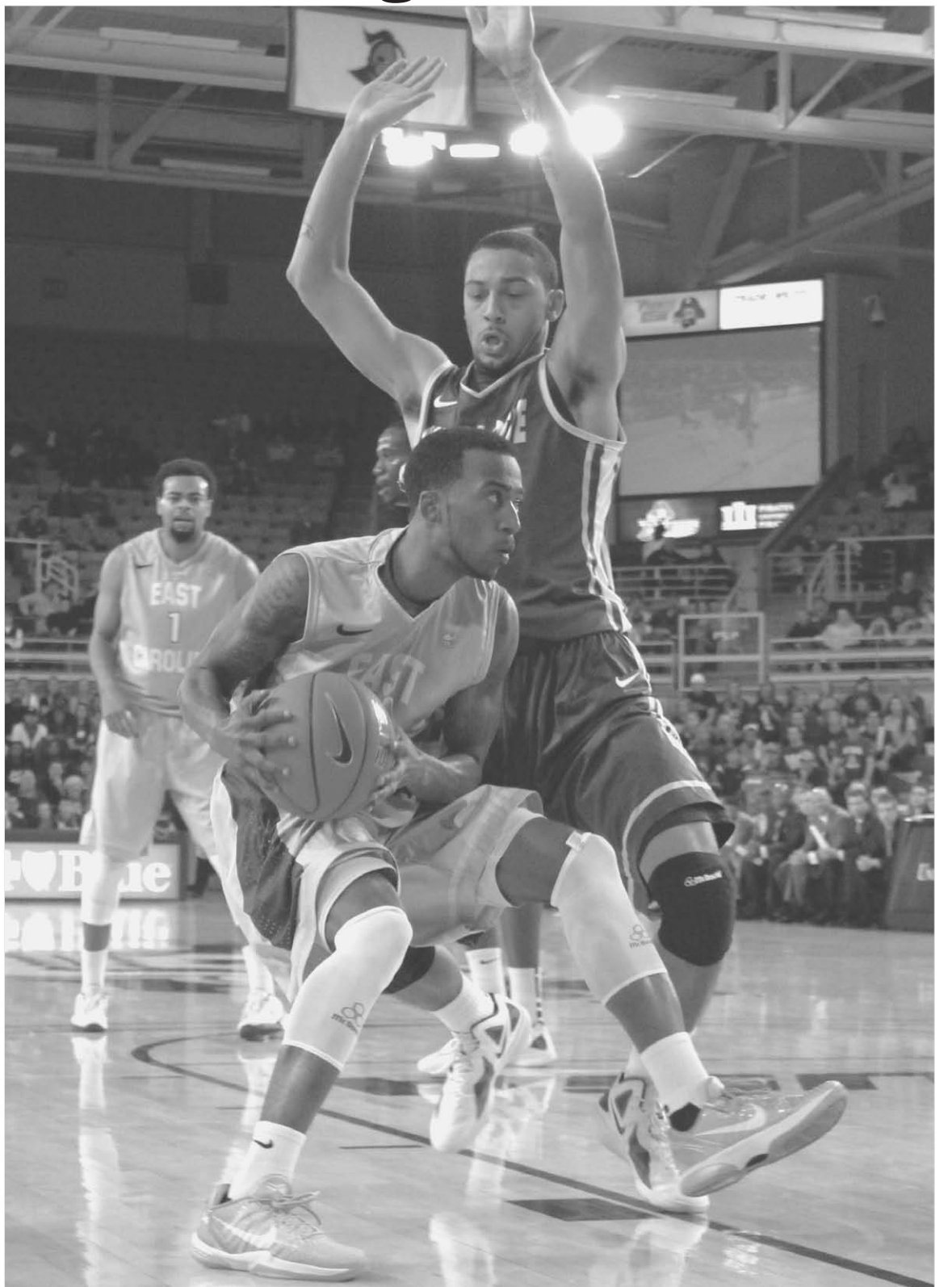
"I'm not going to lie, it's frustrating at times," Paul said after the game. "You get wide-open looks, but we've just got to knock them down. That's all there is to it. Players make plays and right now, we're in between when we've got to be all the way (in) for us to get better."

The Pirates, who are often the dominating team inside, were completely shutdown, being outscored 30 to 18 in the paint, due in large part to the absence of production by Morrow.

"Darrius just struggled immensely," Lebo said of Morrow's struggles. "We're going to have a hard time winning against anybody if he has nights like this."

ECU got behind the eight ball early in the second half as Charlotte came out fast.

The 49ers ripped off a quick 10-2 run in the first 4:42 of the second half to take control. UNC-C would maintain a double-digit lead



Miguel Paul (0) weaves away from a Charlotte defender on his way to the basket on Saturday inside Mingos Coliseum.

for the majority of the second half on the back of the 3-point shot. After making just 2-9 from three in the first half, Charlotte hit 6-9

from deep in the second to keep the Pirates at bay.

Along with Paul's 22 points, two other Pirates scored in double

figures as Erin Straughn racked up 11 points and Shamarr Bowden tailed 13.

> MORROW page A9

# Linebacker has breakout season



Linebacker Jeremy Grove (53) dives over a pile of players as the Pirates make a goalline stop against the UCF Knights.

Daniel Brockman  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The ECU football team is not going to a bowl game this season. The Pirates did not have a winning record on the regular season for the second consecutive season. For the first time in six seasons, ECU will not be participating in college football's bowl season. Even the explosive air-raid style, West Coast offense from Offensive Coordinator Lincoln Riley slipped a touch this season, averaging only 26.3 points per game in 2011 from 38.2 points per game scored during the 2010 season.

However, while the offense is struggling and searching for a true identity, Inside Linebackers' Coach John Wiley has an anchor in Jeremy Grove with which he can rely upon moving forward into spring practice and next season.

The Pirates made exceptional strides on defense this year. One young man helped make the Pirates' defense stand tall in the face of daunting offenses all season long. The Pirate Male All-Star of the Fall 2011 semester is redshirt freshman

inside linebacker Jeremy Grove.

According to NCAA statistics, Grove is the ninth leading tackler for Division I-A schools. Grove tallied 122 total tackles this season, with 45 of them being solo tackles and 3.5 tackles for loss. He also had one sack for the Pirates. He finished third in the conference only behind Trent Mackey of Tulane and Curnelius Arnick. As far as freshmen, Grove is the only one listed in the Top 15. His 122 tackles came in only 11 games, as he was unable to play in the contest against Memphis due to a shoulder injury.

### The Shoulder Injury

The injury did little to Grove as the season continued. He was still able to accumulate 56 tackles upon returning. However, his stats did incur a decline as the season progressed. Through the first five games, three of which were against current top-20 BCS teams, Grove averaged 13.2 tackles per game. After the shoulder injury sidelined him for the Memphis road game, he returned to average 9.3 tackles over the final six games.

One could attribute the decline in tackling numbers to Grove's

shoulder or the fact that the Pirates played easier competition for the second half of the season, which allowed East Carolina to keep its offense on the field longer. Either way, numbers do not lie. Grove is a defensive power that the Pirates will certainly look to as a leader on the defensive side of the ball.

### Improved Defense: Looking Forward

The Pirates certainly needed every tackle the Frederick, Md native could offer this season. During the 2010 season, ECU allowed 43.4 points per game and 478.8 yards per game, both stats that Pirate fans undoubtedly hope to never see again. During the 2011 season, the Pirates climbed from the bottom of Division-I college football defensive standings to allow an average of 32.3 points per game and only give up 376.3 yards per game. This over 11-point and 100-yard difference allowed the Pirates to compete in game against high-caliber opponents such as Virginia Tech for the full four quarters.

In Conference-USA, the Pirates

> LINEBACKER page A9

# Change needed for volleyball

Chase Kroll  
OPINION COLUMNIST

With a 3-0 loss to Marshall on Nov. 23, the ECU volleyball team silently

ended another two-win season. Yes, another two-win season, as in not the first one in recent memory.

In fact, the program has finished with two wins in back-to-back years.

For those that are unaware, the Pirates ended the season on a 24-game losing streak, including every Conference USA match-up. The Pirates have won just one conference game in the past two seasons.

But believe it or not, the Pirates 2011 record (2-27) is actually slightly better than 2010's mark (2-30). Granted, that doesn't mean much.

What it does mean is that out of 61 games, 57 of them have ended in losses. In addition, there has been 43 times where ECU has lost without winning a set. Over the past two years, the Pirates held a winning percentage of .065. If the Pirates were to play 100 matches, they would win roughly six.

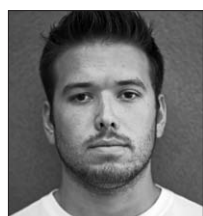
All of these statistics are a roundabout way of saying what needs to be said directly: Something is wrong here. Something needs to change.

Let me be the first one to say that the problem is not the coach: Pati Rolf is an incredibly well-qualified coach. Don't get me wrong; if Ruffin McNeil were to win four games over two years, he would definitely be on his way out the door, and rightfully so, but if Rolf were to "leave" ECU, it would be hard pressed to find another coach of her caliber.

The school doesn't have much to attract another high-caliber coach because it doesn't value the program, as it should.

> VOLLEYBALL page A9

# Five C-USA teams set to bowl



**Stephen McNulty**  
OPINION  
COLUMNIST

Although the Pirates' season ended in fitting fashion and overtime last week, the year had yet to end for all of Conference USA.

On Saturday, Southern Miss, representing the East, and Houston, representing the West, met in Houston for the C-USA championship game.

The Cougars entered the game sixth in the BCS and without a loss on the season. Although they had no shot at the title game due to a nearly incompetent schedule, Houston was still hoping to be a BCS buster.

The Golden Eagles would have none of that.

Austin Davis threw four touchdown passes and Southern Miss routed Houston 49-21. The loss cost C-USA \$13 million from the BCS.

For the Cougars, what could've been C-USA's first ever BCS bowl has turned into a run-of-the-mill Ticket City Bowl bid against Penn State. Meanwhile, Southern Miss has agreed to face Nevada in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl.

It was the final home game for Case Keenum's storied career. Keenum won the Sammy Baugh Award, which goes to college football's top passer, for the second time in his career. In 2011, Keenum set records for career passing yardage (18,312), total offense (19,217), touchdown passes (150), total touchdowns (173), completions (1,460) and 300-yard games (37). With virtually every passing stat to his name, Keenum became the first player in NCAA history with three career 5,000-yard seasons.

Other C-USA teams that have accepted bowl bids include Tulsa, SMU and Marshall.

The Golden Hurricane will face BYU in the Armed Forces Bowl in Dallas on Dec. 30. For Tulsa, it will be the sixth time in seven years they have advanced to post-season play.

Southern Methodist will travel to Birmingham, Ala. to take on Big East foe Pittsburgh in the BBVA Compass Bowl. After years of mediocrity, the Mustangs will be making their third straight bowl appearance for the second time in school history.

Marshall will join the ranks of teams in bowl games with nonsense titles. The Thundering Herd will match up against FIU in the Beef "O" Brady's Bowl in St. Petersburg on Dec. 20. For Marshall, it will be their first bowl under current Head Coach Doc Holliday and their first since the 2009 Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl.

The conference winner has found itself



**Case Keenum (7), Michael Hayes (29) and the Houston Cougars will compete in the Ticket City Bowl against Penn State.**

in the AutoZone Liberty Bowl for the last 16 seasons. But this year, however, the bowl opted for two unranked opponents. The eighth best SEC team, as usual, will be represented by Vanderbilt in Memphis. But taking the place of the No. 1 C-USA team will be the unranked Cincinnati Bearcats out of the Big East.

There were quite a few shifts in the C-USA coaching carousel in 2011 as well. From the top down, Houston's Head Coach Kevin Sumlin could find himself as the guy at an SEC or Pac-12 institution in 2012. The offensive juggernaut has been in the talks for the Arizona State and Texas A&M jobs, among others.

Tulane hired former New Orleans Saints wide receivers' coach, Curtis Johnson, to turn their program around. The Green Wave hasn't made a bowl since 2002 and is 31-76 over that span.

Memphis decided to go in a different direction from Larry Porter, after a 2-10 finish in 2011. The second-year head coach recorded just three wins in his tenure with the Tigers.

Also, UAB did away with Head Coach Neil Callaway. The former Pat Dye disciple struggled to get things going for the Blazers, posting an 18-42 record in five years in Birmingham. Arkansas Offensive Coordinator Garrick McGee was recently hired as Callaway's successor.

As the 2011 college football awards begin to trickle out, don't expect to see many Pirates.

What could have been the final year of what we know as the Conference USA, although disappointing for Pirate fans, was still as exciting as ever.

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

# MORROW

continued from A8

For the 49ers, they were led by Jamar Briscoe, who netted 19 points off the bench, and Chris Braswell and Javarris Barnett, who scored 13 each.

The action in the first half between these two in-state foes can be compared to the first five rounds of a prize fight where the fighters feel each other out looking for weak spots.

The 49ers were able to find some of the Pirates' weak spots early on, building a commanding 17-7 lead midway through the first half. Not to be outdone, ECU battled back on the strength of the 3-point basket. After Paul hit two free throws, Erin Straughn nailed a 3-pointer from the wing, drawing the Pirates to within five. After a media timeout, Paris Campbell and Paul nailed back-to-back threes to put the Pirates out in front for the first time since they led 3-2 with 18:55 left in the half.

Following the dominating run by ECU, both teams settled into a slugfest trading baskets for the next six-plus minutes.

UNC-C took the lead



**Forward Darrius Morrow struggled to score any points against the 49er defense on Saturday night versus UNC-Charlotte.**

going to halftime on the back of a Javarris Barnett 3-point basket with 2:35 left. ECU would score the final four points of the half to draw

within one at the break, finishing 25-26.

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

# LINEBACKER

continued from A8



**Inside linebacker Jeremy Grove wraps up Southern Miss running back Jamal Woodyard (26) at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.**

were dead last in 2010 in both the points against and yards against categories. This 2011 season the Pirates made substantial improvements

moving to fourth of twelve teams in yards against per game and eighth of twelve in points against per game. If the Pirates hope to return to

Conference USA championship glory, these numbers are surely a sign to fans that the defense is putting in the work.

The Pirates look to return their defensive front seven for the 2012 season. Grove will anchor this defense at inside linebacker, as ECU will look to improve its 4-4 final conference standings for the 2011 season. If this season proved anything, it showed the Pirates are stepping up on defense, and the young man leading this defensive march is Jeremy Grove.

Pirate Nation can rejoice for seasons to come as Grove and the defense will be on display in the Purple and Gold.

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

# VOLLEYBALL

continued from A8

Rolf won the Northern Sun Conference Championship 11 times as the coach at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and was named the conference's Coach of the Year six times, all the while compiling a 310-169 record.

At Marquette, Rolf led the Golden Eagles to a 102-98 record in seven seasons, including 48 wins in Big East Play. She has spent time refereeing at the international level, including the women's gold medal match of the 1996 Olympics.

Rolf is a well-respected figure in the volleyball community and has a wide range of connections that few can match. That was evident when she brought in elite international and professional coach Jeri Estes to help work with the Pirates

this past season.

But Rolf, in three full seasons as ECU's head coach, has amassed just 13 wins. That is equal to the lowest amount of wins previous coach Chris Rushing accrued in a single season during his four years at the Pirates' helm.

The team, before Rolf's arrival, had mild success due to experience in key positions. But the team she inherited consisted mainly of underclassmen, and they were forced to learn on the fly.

There was no time to find a solid starting lineup, no time to gel as a unit, and the results were not good. Rolf's stern coaching style got the most out of her players at times, but the player's up-and-down performance can't be all to blame.

The volleyball program has always been average at best because it is very often neglected. To say match attendance is poor is an understatement and the only thing that can be attributed to this is a lack of relevance to the ECU community.

In essence, this team has had a weight on its shoulder that has only grown heavier as no support has come for it. Most of the players do not have scholarships, they get little praise and fans turn their heads when the team struggles.

I claimed earlier that something needed to change for this program. It's not just the staff. It's not only the players. It's the entire atmosphere.

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

# Operation Re-entry and ECU's Wounded Warrior Program Presents

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