



BRIEFS

College of Business appoints new dean

Staff Reports

Dr. Stanley G. Eakins has been appointed to the position of dean of the College of Business.

Eakins has served as the interim dean of the college since December 2010 when he replaced Dr. Frederick Niswander.

Niswander left the position in order to assume his current post of vice chancellor for administration and finance.

Eakins previously served as dean of the college for almost six years and was once the chair of the department of finance.

Eakins received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 1990 and has published several textbooks worldwide.

He assumed his new post on Jan. 3.

Armed men rob local KFC

Staff Reports

At around 8:30 a.m. on Friday, two men wearing masks entered the Kentucky Fried Chicken on Greenville Blvd. and demanded money.

One of the men involved in the robbery had a gun. The two entered after the back door of the facility was left open.

According to WITN, the two men left with an undisclosed amount of money and police used a K-9 unit to track the robbers to a nearby street but lost the trail.

Police are currently looking for connections between the robbery and others in the area.

Officials charge man for having sex with dog

Staff Reports

A Cumberland County man has been arrested after having sex with his neighbor's dog.

According to WITN, Ray Lynn Mitcham Jr. of Linden was charged with a felony count of crime against nature involving a dog.

The neighbor walked in her mobile home and found Mitcham attacking her mixed breed dog.

A DNA profile of Mitcham matched that of the sample taken from the dog.

Mitcham was taken to the county jail.

New trial date set for Pitt County murder suspect

Staff Reports

A new trial date has been set for a local man who is charged with killing his girlfriend almost three years ago.

In August of 2009, Pitt County deputies charged Arthur Ridenhour with murdering his girlfriend, Teresa Foster.

Ridenhour claimed that Foster had set herself on fire and then shot herself, reported WITN.

Investigators claim that Ridenhour had actually killed Foster himself.

University administration terminates media adviser

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Jan. 4, administration terminated the university's Student Media Adviser two months after The East Carolinian published nude photographs of a streaker at a football game.

Paul Isom, who was in charge of overseeing the campus radio station, WZMB; television station, Campus 31; magazines Rebel and Expressions; yearbook, Buccaneer; and The East Carolinian, had been with the university since 2008 before his dismissal.

Isom has worked as a student media adviser/director for more than 15 years.

Though his termination came shortly after the publication of the nude photos of John Sieglinger, the man who streaked at a Nov. 5 football game, the university did not cite a reason, according to Isom.

"They were very careful not to give a specific reason," said Isom. "I asked twice."

Isom said his dismissal was

> **TERMINATION** page A2



Paul Isom, former student media adviser, interviews with WNCT in front of The East Carolinian newsroom.

MORGAN HOPLEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Online book sales help students save



Students purchase textbooks during the first week of school at U.B.E. book store off Evans Street.

Lauren Keranakis
STAFF WRITER

The national average spent on books and supplies at four-year public colleges for the 2011-2012 school year is \$1,168, reported CollegeBoard.

Even with textbook prices rising at double

the rate of inflation for the past two decades, according to a Government Accountability Office study, textbooks are significant purchases for students each semester.

Although costs will vary depending on major, students should expect to spend approximately \$400 per semester, claimed ECU in a Fall 2011 brochure provided through Dowdy

> **BOOKS** page A2

Police report more crime over university winter break



Four students were robbed over winter break.

Caitlin Hunnicutt
STAFF WRITER

There were a reported 68 residential breaking and enterings and five burglaries in Greenville over the winter break period, which spanned Dec. 16-Jan. 6.

A strong majority of these crimes occurred in the downtown area in residential homes. However, few breaking and entering or burglary crimes were reported to have occurred at any of the student living apartment complexes in Greenville over the break.

> **CRIME** page A2

Graduation rate steadily increases

Abbey Way
STAFF WRITER

More than 3,300 students were awarded degrees at the 103rd Fall Commencement held in Minges Coliseum on Dec. 16.

Although numbers will not be finalized until the middle of the week, nearly 2,000 students graduated in the fall, according to the University Registrar. The 3,300 students awarded degrees included both Fall and Summer 2011 graduates.

"We have been gradually growing every year with our numbers," said Assistant Vice Chancellor for the Registrar Office Angela Anderson.

In December 2010, there were 1,738 students who received degrees, and in 2009, there were 1,651 students who received degrees.

"We have had enrollment increases and those students are coming to their time of degree completions, so it's just a natural cycle and we retain students at a higher rate," Anderson said.

In addition to gradual increases over the years, the same colleges have produced the most graduates. The College of Arts and Sciences has the largest number of potential graduates, followed by the College of Business, then the College of Education.

Stanley Eakins, dean of the College of Business, said a high number of students receive business degrees simply because it is one of the biggest schools.

"We train students for a wide variety of jobs and there is still good demand for business majors in the market," Eakins said.

He said that the spring graduating classes are typically much larger, a figure that is also true for the entire university.

"So many people are on that schedule and we really try to get students to get through in four years, and if you do it all right you can do that," Eakins said.

Last spring, 2,925 students were awarded diplomas campus-wide. Currently, 2,268 students have applied for Spring 2012 and the remaining students have until Jan. 24 to apply.

The Office of Registrar is expecting another increase of graduates this spring.

"It goes up a tremendous amount that week, and then we will have some continue to come in past the deadline," Anderson said. "The deadline ensures that their name appears in the commencement program, so we encourage students to come in by the deadline."

But as the graduation deadline quickly approaches for some students, the thousands who received diplomas in December are now heading in all different directions.

"It is bittersweet. I definitely contributed a lot to ECU and it's kind of hard to see myself leaving, but it is about that time. I have been there for four and a half years now," said AJ Malicdem, an engineering graduate.

> **FALL** page A3

GOT SOMETHIN' TO SAY?

GET YOUR RANT IN THE NEXT PAPER!

Submit your rants at www.theeastcarolinian.com/submit-a-pirate-rant

INSIDE

OPINION

Columnist Ben Cochran gives his opinion on the virtual bowl game. Turn to Opinion to read what he has to say. **A4**

LIFESTYLES

Turn to Lifestyles to read all about this year's upcoming movies! **A6**

SPORTS

Turn to Sports to learn about the biggest home sporting events of the semester. **A8**

WEATHER

60°F/ 39°F

Sunny!



GRAPHICS FROM ENTROPIA.COM

ONLINE



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

TERMINATION continued from A1

decided upon by a "team of administrators," but that the final decision came from Chris Stansbury, director of marketing and communications.

"The fact that he was given no specific reasoning seems to point to the incident," said sophomore Daniel Johnson. "I guess it doesn't really seem unexpected."

After Stansbury and a Human Resources representative delivered the news to Isom, he said he was given three and a half hours to clean out his office.

In a media advisory, Dr. Virginia Hardy, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, stated that the decision was, "a personnel matter." Hardy also stated that there would be no further comment on the situation from the university.

The photos initially created much controversy, both at a local and national level. Administrators called the decision to publish the photos "in poor taste," and held meetings with those involved.

In the meetings, administrators stressed that there would be consequences for the publication of pictures.

Isom was present at these meetings and had several additional meetings with university officials.

"My interactions with administration changed fairly noticeably after the photos ran," said Isom.

Isom said that appointments he had scheduled with university officials were frequently canceled and that ask for leave time was ignored.

"I can see how the photos were considered in bad taste by the university," said junior Child Development and Family Relations major, Kristen Caputo. "However, I feel like he is protected by the

First Amendment."

Isom is on the hunt for a new job and is considering taking action against the university.

The circumstances have already caught the eye of the Student Press Law Center in Arlington, Va. According to its website, the agency is devoted to educating high school and college journalists of "the rights and responsibilities embodied in the first amendment and supporting the student news media in their struggle to cover important issues free from censorship."

The center recently published an article regarding Isom's termination and the legality of the publication of the nude photos.

"There's no camouflaging what this is, which is retaliation for an editorial judgment made by the students that was completely within the students' authority to make," said Frank LoMonte, executive director of the SPLC. "They're clearly punishing the adviser for something he not only didn't control, but legally couldn't control."

According to LoMonte, removing Isom from his post does in fact create some concerns involving the First Amendment.

LoMonte also asserted that the newspaper's editors might also have a First Amendment claim, since public university students typically have more freedom of speech than public university employees.

Isom recently had his exit interview with the Human Resources department of the university, but the meeting will remain confidential.

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

BOOKS continued from A1

Student Stores.

"I spend about \$400 to 500 a semester on books," said sophomore business management major Parker Smith.

Many students choose to go without certain course materials. The National Association of College Stores recently found that nearly 60 percent of students nationwide choose not to buy all the course materials, reported The Washington Post.

However, some courses require the textbook and other materials, which has students looking for the cheapest way to buy or even rent these supplies needed for their classes.

"I like to search around and find the lowest price before I choose to buy my textbooks," said senior business management major Josh Brunelle.

An ART 1910 book costs \$147.80 brand new and \$110.85 used at Dowdy. The new book runs for about

\$139.65 new and \$104.70 used at U.B.E. U.B.E rents the book for \$79.60 new and \$56.54 used. The same book is \$127.40 new and \$93.60 used at Beat The Bookstore. At The Campus Bookstore, the art book is \$136.95 new and \$95.99 used.

Prices vary for every book, but with competing bookstores, the prices will generally be in the same range.

"If another store has something that is cheaper, the prices will fluctuate. They will never go up but they will go down," said U.B.E School Supplies Manager Dylan Shepherd.

U.B.E has about 1,400 titles (courses) that have textbooks for rent and rented out 6,000 textbooks last semester, according to U.B.E Operations Manager Yvonne Perry. This makes it the largest rental program out of any bookstore in Greenville.

Students who buy books

expect to sell the books back at the end of the semester for some kind of stipend. However, students are taking a risk when they expect money for their used textbooks.

"If the professor is using the book next semester, we will buy the book back for half the price of a new version. If the professor is not using the book, we will probably not buy the book back," said Perry.

U.B.E's average rental rate is half the price of a new copy as well. However, rental rates can usually range from 40-60 percent less than the original price, said Shepherd.

"Renting your textbooks is the safer route," said Perry. Renting eliminates the question, "Is the professor going to use this book next semester or not?" she added.

While some prefer to purchase their textbooks from a bookstore, other students prefer to buy their textbooks online. CheapestTextbooks.com

allows students to compare new, used and rental prices from a various online textbook distributors.

"Buying books online is more convenient and usually cheaper than buying books at the local bookstore," said Brunelle.

When a textbook title or ISBN is entered, CheapestTextbooks.com immediately finds the lowest prices for all used, new and rental copies offered for sale online.

The same ART 1910 book is \$102.91 new and \$77.97 used. A 125-day rental copy was priced at a low \$39.82.

While some books are only found in local bookstores, others can be bought from numerous websites.

"Taking the time to find the best deal really helps save me money when buying textbooks every semester," added Brunelle.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

CRIME continued from A1

"I think the things that help, comparing us living to a house downtown, is having the security guards and security team here," said Sarah Brock, property manager at North Campus Crossing. "Those extra precautions definitely help rather than leaving a vacant house. At least criminals know there are going to be people walking around looking for people who are suspicious."

Most student living complexes provide extra security, including gated communities, security officers that patrol the property, on cite Greenville police officers and alarm systems in every apartment.

The Greenville Police department provides a list of 14 tips on its website under crime prevention to combat any criminals and protect homes. Some things on the

list include hiding any valuables, making sure all doors to the outside are metal or solid and never hiding house keys outside.

Four ECU students and roommates were victims of one of what may be many home burglaries over the winter break. The four students live in the downtown area and left their home for break. Upon returning, they found that they had been robbed. The robbery is believed to have occurred on Dec. 28 or 29.

"I've heard of houses in the grid getting broken into, but not as extreme as this," said Brittany Cherry, junior elementary education major and resident of the home that was robbed. "They went to a lot of trouble to get into our house. Houses around us have had small stuff stolen before,

but nothing this big. They just destroyed our house."

The official police report stated that there was \$15,000 worth of items stolen from the home.

Items stolen from the home included four flat screen TVs, two laptop computers, a 2006 Pontiac Grand Prix, a GPS system, a broken netbook, two broken digital cameras, laundry detergent, two George Forman grills, an entire toolbox, food from the freezer, liquor, all the keys to the house, money and costume jewelry, according to resident and ECU student, Katherine Wybo.

The Pontiac Grand Prix, belonging to Wybo and valued at over \$15,000, was recovered a week after the robbery off of Fifth Street behind an abandoned house. All of the tires had been

removed from the car, along with the spare tire in the trunk. Valuables from inside the car, as well as proof of insurance, had also been stolen.

The residents of the home feel that they were targeted because they were females and that they had been watched before the robbery occurred. They felt that the robber knew that they were out of town and knew when to act.

"Keeping this positive attitude is all we can do, along with remembering we are all safe and will be able to replace what was taken from us and hopefully the police department will continue to work to find who did this," said Wybo.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

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Pirates!**

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DiversiFYI - Belly Dancing

Jan 12 • 6:00pm • Social Room, MSC

Hot Chocolate

Jan 13 • 8:30-10:00am • Outside Christenbury Gym, Speight, and Joyner Library

Men's Basketball vs. Tulsa

Jan 14 • 5:00pm • Minges Coliseum

MLK Day of Service

Jan 16 • 8:00am-1:00pm • Great Rooms, MSC

Interactive MLK Museum

Jan 16 • 5:00-8:00pm • Great Rooms, MSC

LOL Comedy Series: Nikki Glaser

Jan 17 • 8:00pm • Hendrix Theatre, MSC

Women's Basketball vs. UTEP

Jan 18 • 7:00pm • Minges Coliseum

Service Opportunities Fair

Jan 18 & 19 • 1:00-3:00pm • Volunteer and Service Learning Center

FALL

continued from A1

Malicdem will begin graduate school at George Mason University in a few weeks.

Daniel Varela was awarded a business degree in December and said, "It feels good to accomplish my goals." He said he plans to relax for about a month or two and then find a job.

Dewayne Robinson graduated in December with degrees in both communication and criminal justice.

"After all of that hard work, it is good to know that when you completed your degree, you can go out and look for work and know that after what was taught to you, you are qualified for the job and you can get the job done," said Robinson.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

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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.

I've gone a month without a new TEC. I need me a fix.

Did I miss the Pirate Rant lady/anonymous poster wedding?

That moment when you realize that you have more friends on World of Warcraft than you do in real life...

I graduated 2 years ago, paid out-of-state tuition all 4 years. ECU just sent me a bill for \$8.58... REALLY?!?!?!?

It's my last semester at ECU! Graduation is right around the corner! 2012 yeah!!! :)

Seeing a car in the middle of the mall and thinking "How the heck did they get that in here?"

You need only two tools. WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and it should, use WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the tape.

Life is way too short to safely remove a USB.

Curse this sporadically fluctuating weather. I guess Al Gore doesn't seem like such an idiot now does he?

I want my New Year's resolution to be losing weight, but I can't afford new clothes.

No, I will not purchase a \$50 "Virtual Bowl" ticket. I am a college student who is also broke.

I ALREADY MISS THAT OLD HEAD COPY EDITOR. HE WAS SMART AND SEXY.

A week before classes start and I'm getting e-mails from my professors. Why does break have to end??

Welcome Back! Here's to a successful 2012!

This break sucked. I'm ready to pawwrrty.

Can TEC write their articles on something that the students actually care about? Those things would be: sex, drugs and where the party's at.

Okay, so I had an ongoing relationship with the old Pirate Rant Lady. You know, I submit a rant and she posts it. Let's just hope that the new Pirate Rant Person has the same penchant.

TEC's Twitter said to remember to submit our rants before the semester starts back. I've been submitting them since the semester got out.

Dear Greenville Police, I am tired of being robbed. This is getting ridiculous. Maybe instead of just keeping a tally of crimes, we should do something about them.

My winter break consisted of me building a fort in my room and watching seasons 1-6 of Weeds. Be about it.

Please do not read aloud your Powerpoint verbatim... I am not illiterate.

Honestly? Yes, I cried like a baby when I left home for this semester. And all I do is commute. And I'm a guy.

Are you ready for some faux bowl?



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST

As with the hot dog, the slot machine and the comical cycle of half-hearted health-focused New Year's resolutions, another classically American idea is capitalism.

America is a land of unrestricted freedoms: freedom of religion (unless you're a Muslim living in New York trying to build a mosque), freedom of speech (unless you're Michele Bachman, in which case some believe you should have your mouth stapled shut), freedom of political ideation (unless you're suspected of being a terrorist, in which case you will be detained indefinitely without trial), and freedom of sexual orientation (but you can only get married if you're heterosexual). To this long list of unmitigated freedoms we must also add the free market economy — the hallmark of American capitalism.

It is no coincidence that in the year of America's founding, moral philosopher Adam Smith also published his masterpiece, "The Wealth of Nations." In it, he describes the merits of a free market economy and how society is best served when individuals act in accordance to their own self-interest. I love that America has adopted the economic and moral truths of this work. But lately, it seems like we're straying from these principles. Nowhere is this deviation more evident than in our very own athletic department here at ECU.

The Pirate Club wanted to raise money by selling tickets to a "virtual" bowl game. It wanted my real money for a ticket to a fake game — no, not even that. It couldn't even produce a tangible paper ticket for

me to complete the illusion. The club wanted my money and then expected my imagination to do all the work.

Folks, this is bordering on communism, and it is most assuredly not American. I feel like a feudal serf being lorded over by a tyrannical athletic department that is projecting all its shortcomings on me. It's not my fault our football team wasn't successful; I resent the supposition that the lack of my money is to blame.

I don't know where it's coming from, but if it keeps up, we might just find ourselves in the midst of another Red Scare—and I'm NOT talking about the prospect of playing NC State. I'm talking about the spread of communism, and the threat is very real, as evidenced by the selling of "tickets" to this "virtual" bowl.

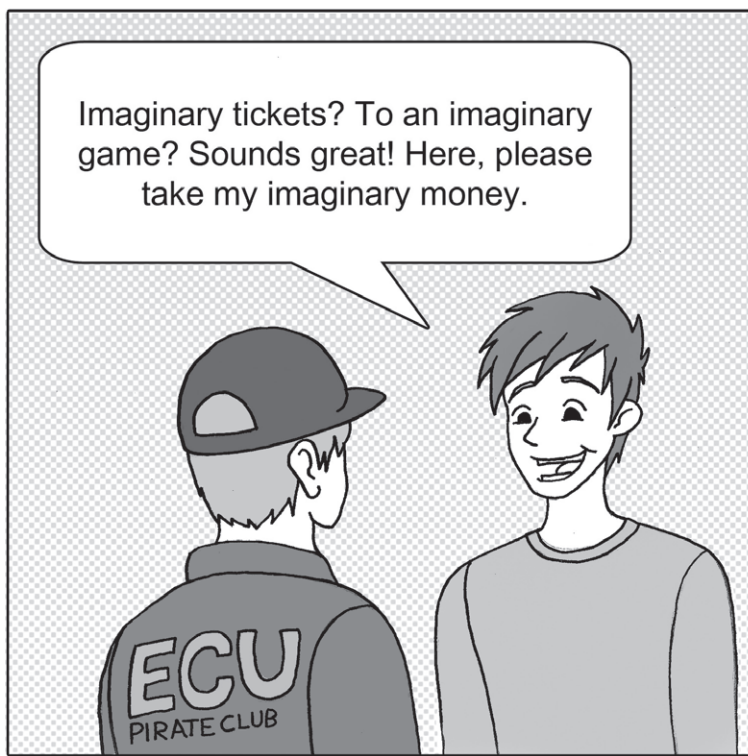
I understand that Mark Wharton, assis-

tant athletic director, is very proud of his alma mater and that he wants to prove that we, as a Pirate Nation, are more enthusiastic about our football program than other schools in our own conference. I cannot find any fault with that. But I can find fault in using a fundraising campaign as the benchmark by which our Pirate pride is measured.

For six home games this season, we came out in support of our Pirates. We cut up our Pirate Club tee shirts. We enthusiastically cheered on our Pirates and furiously booed the opposition — all the while maintaining proper sportsmanlike conduct and the occasional pelting with airplane bottles when the situation called for it. Some even dressed as provocative as possible. We gave you our heart, soul and self-respect for the entire season, and even that wasn't enough to secure a six-win campaign.

So forgive me, Mr. Wharton, if I find your request for money to be a little off-putting. The timing couldn't be worse. Not only do you want our cold, hard cash, you ask for it after an announced tuition increase and you do so with the affront of a "virtual" bowl. Bowl games are rewards for real, not imagined, success. It's the American way; you reap what you sow. Anything to the contrary smacks of socialistic lunacy.

Perhaps I'm being unfair. We're all on the same team and we all want our football program to be successful. So I'll make a deal with you, Mr. Wharton: I'll buy a ticket to your "virtual" bowl when ECU issues me a scholarship for my "virtual" 4.0.



The broke college kid reacts to ECU's Virtual Bowl

MADALYN MCLEOD JOHNSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

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

Disability diss | Hesitate before you label



Rex Rose
OPINION COLUMNIST

I had to come back to school over break. This was upsetting enough in its own right, but the conversation that I overheard caused me anger far beyond the 45-minute car ride.

I returned to school to help show my friend — a new Pirate who is starting this month — around campus to help her locate different buildings. One of the stops we made was at the Department for Disability Support Services. We located the building and I sat in the hallway while she spoke with an employee. From my seat in the hallway, I could clearly hear the conversation between the employee and my friend.

As the conversation progressed, the employee's tone and word choice became more and more demeaning. The employee constantly referred to the population of students at ECU with disabilities as "you guys." She used

this phrase in one instance by commenting, "You guys need to sit at the front of classes." Another time, when my friend attempted to ask a question, the employee stopped her and said, "Don't interrupt," and continued to tell her that she needed to "listen." This employee also went on to tell my friend that the problem with "you guys is that you do not listen." As always, my friend remained polite and courteous.

Needless to say, people with disabilities are still subject to a great amount of discrimination and are usually grouped carelessly together as a single unit. The grouping together of all people with disabilities is absurd, because the impairments that constitute a person disabled include a broad spectrum of mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia or physical impairments, including being in a wheelchair. I would also like to add that the lowest grade my friend, who struggles with OCD and turrets, has made on her way to her associate degree was a B and that she is a great listener.

In my heart of hearts, I would

love to apply this story to the entire Department for Disability Support Services at ECU, but that would be just as wrong as grouping every person with a disability together. What I can say, though, is that this story highlights a problem in mainstream America. This story is not unique, and it marks an underlying belief in superiority that people without disabilities hold over those who have them.

Integration is the name of the game when the government attempts to fix these social issues and acts. The Americans with Disabilities Services Act did just that. It made it illegal for people to openly discriminate against disabled people in job settings and made sure that schools provided resources to any student facing a disability.

The U.S. Disability Statistics website reports that in 2009, 12 percent of all non-institutionalized males and females of all races and education levels reported being affected by a disability. These numbers were of course based on a sample, but I believe they are close to the real values. I can almost

promise you that 100 percent of these people have experienced some type of discrimination.

Integration of this 12 percent of society will not be possible, even with the existing laws, unless people learn that a disability doesn't mean brain dead. Some of the greatest minds of our time suffered from disabling mental illnesses, such as Albert Einstein, who suffered from schizophrenia. According to a study done by Duke University, 49 percent of all American presidents suffered from a mental illness.

In no galaxy is it right to talk down to or disregard a person because of disabilities he or she faces, and some of the time these illnesses create a mind much sharper than the minds of those that criticize. Be careful of what you say to others, because you never know the circumstance. Leave your stress at the gym, not on the heart and mind of someone with a disability.

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

WEB POLL

Do you have a New Year's resolution?

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RANTS CONT.

Student athletes don't need to be paid. They're already getting paid if you consider the amount of their refunds from scholarships after their tuition and fees are taken out and their monthly stipends. You'd be absolutely appalled if you knew how much.

So, I've been submitting Rants since the end of the semester... I hope they weren't wasted.

Walk on the right side of the sidewalk. You do not drive down the middle of the road and run into other cars. So don't walk head on into me. Thanks.

I'm going to need people to start skipping class. Dowdy is way too crowded for lunch!

So I went to my girlfriend's house to meet her parents and I ended up clogging their toilet.

What's the latest on the Pirate Rant couple's marriage? Or is it complicated?

Survived my first drunk walk of the semester to downtown and back without getting shot. Woo!

Came back into town on Saturday and saw one of my old teachers moving like Bernie at the bar. I love ECU!

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21 -April 19)

You need to deal with a parental issue. That could mean dealing with your kids, your parents, or needing to intervene between two generations of some other family. You've got what it takes!



Taurus (April 20 -May 20)

Your good energy is keeping you happy and feeling good today, so make sure that you're pushing yourself a bit and getting yourself out in the world. Things are good and getting better!



Gemini (May 21 -June 20)

You may stumble upon a sweet deal today. Go for it if it feels right — saving money can take many forms, and sometimes you need to spend a little in order to keep your bank account stable.



Cancer (June 21 -July 22)

Your energy levels are getting higher, so make sure that you're dealing with the projects and people that mean the most to you. You're on a roll, and things are just getting better!



Leo (July 23 -August 22)

You can get along with almost anyone right now, so show the new colleague what's what or make sure that your kids understand how you really feel. It's a good time for you to make a difference.



Virgo (August 23 -Sept 22)

Your social life gets a little boost today, as you either make a new friend or receive an unexpected visit from someone you haven't seen in a while. Enjoy the attention and prepare to return it!



Libra (Sept 23 -Oct 22)

Avoid the temptation to volunteer or even to speak up today — your energy may call you out for some negative attention if you make a scene. That doesn't mean you can't speak with friends, of course.



Scorpio (Oct 23 -Nov 21)

You find yourself lost in conversation today — in a good way! You may realize you're late for an appointment or meeting, but you're better off canceling it and doing what feels right.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 -Dec 21)

Your flexibility is vital, so make sure that you're dealing with situations that demand it. You may feel exhausted by the end of the day, but that's exactly what is needed. Enjoy the rest!



Capricorn (Dec 22 -Jan 19)

You've got a few new ideas for handling today's big business — so make sure that the right people are paying attention! You've got to check into at least one new large-scale project, too.



Aquarius (Jan 20 -Feb 18)

If you can just settle into the safety of life's little routines, you should be able to find new ways to endure — or even enjoy — the boredom. If you struggle too hard, everyone is miserable.



Pisces (Feb 19 -March 20)

Creative energy comes easily to you even on your worst days, and this is far from that! You should be able to pop up with great notions and surprise people with new ways of seeing things.



These horoscopes are from www.astrology.com.

All images are from MCTcampus.com

Chancellors talk changes



Virginia Hardy (left), vice chancellor of student affairs and Marilyn Sheerer (center), provost and senior vice chancellor talk with TEC writer Mike Davis.

The East Carolinian sat down with Marilyn Sheerer, provost and senior vice chancellor, and Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor of student affairs to talk about the changes the university has and will go through.

Mike Davis
ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Q: What are some of the changes the university has gone through this past semester?

A: "Because the budget has been cut back so far, that means we have to spend a lot more time deciding where the money goes. That means we have to make some decisions, like can we offer

this class as often as we did before, particularly upper-level classes. This past semester, we have actually been able to keep most of the pieces in place. I have to be honest right now and I don't think the students are feeling it too much right now, but in the future, if this tightness continues, we are going to have to cut more," said Sheerer.

"I think it is fair to say that the faculty understands the reality of all of this, so I think they have been pretty good. Lets say they were teaching two or three classes, we might have asked them to take on another one. And their class sizes have

gotten bigger. They have had to run around to find bigger rooms because some of the rooms don't hold a lot of people," said Sheerer.

Q: What are some of the changes the university will be going through?

A: "We have been able to get some long-term

> CHANCELLORS page A7

2012: Year of sequels, prequels and reboots

Hunter Ingram
STAFF WRITER

Every year when the calendar resets, Hollywood takes a deep breath and prepares for the year to come. With the start of a new year, an exceptionally large schedule of new films developing, setting up a year that could break the record books.

In 2012, there are no less than 25 sequels, prequels and reboots slated to hit theaters, a figure that will lead to some serious battles for the box office. But not every film will be as successful as most hope. And with many elements in play, the year in film can go many different ways.

The first major film of the year will easily be the highly anticipated adaptation of the novel "The Hunger Games" (out March 23). In a nutshell, it is the epic chronicle of a televised fight-to-the-death battle between 24 young adults in a dystopian version of the future. The film, which was shot mostly in North Carolina, is looking to become the next "Harry Potter"-type franchise by attracting fans to its gritty and futuristic plot. And with three books in the series, if the film performs as well as many are predicting, "The Hunger Games" will likely become the next big Hollywood craze.

Like so many years in the past, the summer film schedule just isn't complete without a few superheroes flying around and saving helpless citizens, and 2012 will not only continue that trend, but also amplify it.

On May 4, the first superheroes of the summer, Marvel's "The Avengers" will hit theaters, bringing together Iron Man, Captain America, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Hawkeye and Black Widow for a mission that will no doubt put the fate of the world in jeopardy. Considered one of the largest films ever made, "The Avengers" essentially combines the various superheroes, which have previously only appeared in their own individual films. With the success of those films and the returning star power of each hero, "The Avengers" is almost guaranteed blockbuster status.

"The Dark Knight

Rises," the third and final film in Christopher Nolan's gothic retelling of the Batman saga, has been causing a stir ever since 2008's "The Dark Knight" premiered, introducing the world to Heath Ledger's infamous villain, The Joker. The concluding film (out July 20) finds Batman, disgraced after the last film's finale, making a last stand for Gotham's citizens against Bane (Tom Hardy) and Catwoman's (Anne Hathaway) attempts to take back a city that is run by the wealthy one percent.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" (out July 3) will also see the return of everyone's favorite neighbor web-slinger in this reboot that finds him tackling high school and a new villain, The Lizard. "The Social Network's" Andrew Garfield and "The Help's" Emma Stone step into the "spidery" world of the film, which is directed by Marc Webb ("500 Days of Summer").

Positioned as a supposed prequel to the 1979 classic "Alien," sci-fi director Ridley Scott has created the out-of-this-world "Prometheus" (out June 8). In the still-mysterious film, a group of scientists travel to a remote planet in search of the origins of life on Earth

only to find something else.

While those are only a few films being released, many, many more will be making a play for the top of the box office. More sequels to be released include "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" (July 8), "Men in Black 3" (May 25), "Wrath of the Titans" (March 30), "Ice Age:

Continental Drift" (July 13), "Step Up 4" (July 27), "The Expendables 2" (August 17), "Taken 2" (October), "Paranormal Activity 4" (October), the next James Bond film "Skyfall" (November) and "The Twilight

> 2012 page A7



"The Great Gatsby" (above) is due out later this year, while "The Amazing Spider-Man" (center) premieres this summer and "The Hunger Games" (left) comes out this spring.

ALL IMAGES CONTRIBUTED

CHANCELLORS continued from A6

vacant positions filled, such as the career director, and we now have one in place starting November, and our leadership director started out Jan. 3. So we are quite happy about some of those positions that have been vacant for one or two years that we have been able to fill with quality people. We are quite excited about those people coming on board," said Hardy.

Q: How have the faculty responded to the budget cuts and increase in class sizes?

A: "The faculty is very, very, busy. They haven't had raises for four years. We lost some really good faculty in different areas. If we don't have the money to offer them competitive bids for their salaries, that is tough," said Sheerer.

"The faculty does a really great job. Even with the budget cuts and the lack of resources, they do a fantastic job and they are very committed. Sometimes, it is helpful for students to say thank you, job well done, to acknowledge the good work they do, and the commitment they have to the students succeed," said Hardy.

Q: How do you think the upcoming freshmen should react to the budget cuts at ECU?

A: "Number one, we are not going to admit more freshmen than we can handle. We omitted fewer freshmen this past year than we did the year before. We have to make sure that we have whatever it is we are delivering available to everybody as they come in. We will watch our enrollment. You don't see a university have great difficulty; you see a university trying to adapt to the problems of tight budgets.

What we also hope is that you will get the opportunity, through adding the new leadership person on board, (to get) a lot more leadership opportunities. We are going to be much more intentional about integrating leadership into everything we are doing on campus," said Hardy.

"Through Student Affairs and Housing and Dining, all freshmen have to live on campus. There will be some exceptions, but otherwise, we will have 3,500 to 3,600 freshmen living in the halls. That being the case, we have gone through the efforts of making sure we truly have a developmental process in place in the residence halls. They are going to get academic skill

building, they are going to get some leadership pieces, and they are going to get some socialization. We are going to do a lot more programming in the halls," said Hardy.

Q: Will the dorms have to go through any changes to accommodate the incoming students?

A: "We don't have to make any changes to accommodate them, but we are going to make some changes just for quality of life and quality of experience. We are changing some of the halls, though. We will actually be taking Belk down and rebuild, and do some other changes to College Hill to make it more of a community. But within the halls we are making more lounges and study spaces within the residence hall. We have actually created a satellite Pirate Tutoring Center inside Jones," said Hardy.

"I think we continue to make improvements in all arenas, and part of that is because we try to decide where to best use our money and resources so that we don't just keep doing everything a little bit well, but trying to focus a little bit better," said Sheerer.

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

2012 continued from A6

Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2" (November 16), which will conclude the popular franchise.

The new year will also see several reboots of previous franchises or TV shows including "21 Jump Street" (March 16) starring Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill, "Total Recall" (starring Colin Farrell and Jessica Biel), and "The Bourne Legacy," (August) starring new series star Jeremy Renner (also in "The Avengers") and "The Mummy's" Rachel Weisz.

Some original films being released include the male

stripper saga "Magic Mike," starring Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer and Matthew McConaughey; "The Cabin in the Woods," a long-awaited horror film from Joss Whedon; Pixar's new film "Brave" (June 22), which introduces a Celtic warrior princess; and the romantic comedy "The Wedding" (October), which stars Robert DeNiro, Diane Keaton, Robin Williams, Topher Grace, Katherine Heigl and Amanda Seyfried.

And come December, theaters will also see a return to Middle Earth for "The

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," Leonardo DiCaprio will bring "The Great Gatsby" to life and "Les Misérables" will be retold with Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway and Taylor Swift.

So with a new year and a new chance for all of these films to make their mark on Hollywood and audiences everywhere, studios are no doubt gearing up to make sure that 2012 is the best year in cinema in a very long time.

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

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Football introduces new staff member

Staff Reports

Brian Overton has been named director of football operations and player personnel at East Carolina University, according to an announcement from head football coach Ruffin McNeill Thursday.

Prior to his appointment at ECU, Overton served as a football operations assistant at the University of North Carolina for three years. He played a pivotal role in the Tar Heels' on-campus recruiting efforts, in addition to providing ancillary support with team travel, high school summer camps, video maintenance and office management.

While Overton developed and coordinated UNC's game day operations effort for recruiting visits, his contributions reached far beyond establishing detailed weekend itineraries. As a recruiting liaison to the department's compliance office, he helped administer a program that documented all official visits, evaluations, contacts and phone calls. Overton also provided direct oversight of the Tar Heels' entire prospect video database, a duty that ranged from an initial screening to a final written coaches' evaluation.

Before accepting a position on the North Carolina staff, Overton spent nine years coaching at the high school level. He earned his first assignment as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at alma mater Hertford County (N.C.) High School in 2001. In addition to traditional in-season responsibilities, Overton supervised academic progress, coordinated unofficial college visits, conducted fundraisers for team and individual summer camp participation, and organized community service activities until his departure in 2007.

He spent one season at Greene Central (N.C.) High School, where he was the Rams' co-offensive coordinator. He also served as the Shrine Bowl combine co-coordinator, a job which involved host site selection and set up, film evaluation, and on-site logistical organization.

Overton returned to the Bears' program at Hertford County High School for the 2008 and 2009 campaigns as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach before moving to Chapel Hill.

Overton, 30, completed his bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Elizabeth City State University in 2004.

Volleyball signs three for 2012

Staff Reports

Sierra Lee-Dunson, Kierra Lee-Dunson and Torre Blake have signed national letters-of-intent to attend and play volleyball for ECU beginning in the fall of 2012, according to an announcement by head coach Pati Rolf on Thursday.

Sierra Lee-Dunson, a six-foot middle blocker from Atlanta, Ga., is a product of Lakeside High School where she helped the Vikings to a record of 44-15 during her junior and senior seasons — a mark that includes a 15-0 ledger against area schools. In 2011, Sierra was a key factor in Lakeside's run to the Georgia AAAA Elite Eight and a third-place finish in the 6-AAAA playoffs.

Sierra's twin sister and teammate, Kierra, produced 162 kills and 29.5 blocks in the 2011 campaign, as well as 19 service aces. She is the two-time Lakeside best offensive player for the varsity squad and was named the junior varsity's most improved player her freshman campaign. A 6-foot middle blocker and right side hitter, Kierra garnered First Team All 6-AAAA honors. She also earned two total varsity letters as a center for the Viking basketball squad and a high jump and shot put specialist for the track team.

Blake, the daughter of former Pirate and NFL quarterback Jeff Blake, is a 5 foot 8 inch middle blocker and outside hitter from Austin, Texas and is completing her prep career at Stephen F. Austin High School. She has been a member of the varsity squad since her sophomore year and, as a junior in 2010, was awarded the most valuable player award.

Knights whip Pirates in C-USA home opener



Junior forward Maurice Kemp (2) gets swarmed by UCF defender Keith Clanton (33) on his way to the rim Saturday night at Minges Coliseum.

Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER

After losing by a scant two points on the road to a very tough Southern Miss team, ECU basketball coach Jeff Lebo thought his team had a good shot at upending visiting Central Florida on Saturday. He surely didn't expect the result he got.

The Pirates were thoroughly dominated by the Knights en route to an 81-63 defeat that left the normally-jovial Lebo visibly stunned, especially given the promising performance his team had put up just three nights prior.

"We just got whipped," Lebo said, summing up a night in which his team was outperformed in just about every statistical category. "There's really no way around (or) sugarcoating it. Physically, (we were) not even in (UCF's) area code here tonight."

"I thought we would have played better," he continued. "I thought we had a little juice at shoot-around. Our practices were good. But we just didn't have anything, really, tonight." The physicality department was where the Pirates were pounded the most on the night, as they were outrebounded by the Knights 46-29 overall and 16-9 on the offensive glass. UCF's size and strength inside and ECU's inability to limit its offensive rebounds also helped the Knights to a 50-30 advantage in points in the paint.

Offensively, things didn't go much better. Entering Saturday, ECU (9-6, 0-2 C-USA) had raised its shooting percentage to 44.2 percent after a handful of dismal games to start the season. But the Pirates shot a lowly 36.7 percent (22-60) against the Knights, which only further compounded their problems.

"It just happens," forward Darius Morrow said of the team's poor night. "We've been shooting the ball pretty well lately. I guess we were due for a (bad) night. But we're not going to hang our heads. We're going

to look forward to the next game." The combination of UCF's dominance inside, and a return to early-season form at the offensive end of the floor meant a long night for the home team and its fans.

UCF, who had lost four straight to ECU before Saturday, scored the game's first seven points, meaning the Pirates were playing catch-up from the first minute on. The game was one of dueling runs, in which ECU threatened to build momentum and close the gap several times.

But every time the Pirates appeared to be gaining steam, UCF would answer with a key offensive rebound, a momentum-swinging basket, or, on many occasions, both.

More often than not, ECU's runs were sandwiched around long stretches where they were simply unable to score the basketball. Both halves saw the Pirates endure hoop-less droughts that lasted more than six minutes, which killed any chances they had of mounting a serious charge.

"We have trouble scoring at times," Lebo said. "We had chances and we'd miss shots. We had a couple of looks that we needed to go down and couldn't make them. (We) just struggled for the whole night, offensively."

Miguel Paul was the one Pirate who had a decent night shooting. His 14 first-half points were the main reason the Pirates only trailed by seven at the break, with a score of 38-31. Paul ultimately finished with a game-high 21 on 8-16 shooting, 4-8 from 3-point range.

Paul was one of three ECU players to score in double figures. Forward Maurice Kemp continued to flourish in his new starting role, scoring 14 points to finish in double figures for the eighth straight game. Morrow added 11 points and shared the team lead in rebounds with Kemp, with both grabbing six.

UCF got big-time performances

> **KNIGHTS** page A9

Spring into Pirate athletics

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With the Christmas break coming to a close, so are the fall sports. Replacing sports like football are the stretch runs in men's and women's basketball, baseball and softball.

To prepare fans for the spring slate of action, here is a list of notable games that will take place during the spring semester.

Men's Basketball: Having completed the non-conference part of the 2011-12 schedule with a 9-4 record, the Pirates have moved into conference play over the last week. They haven't

gotten off to the greatest start as they dropped their first two conference games against Southern Miss and Central Florida.

However, the conference season is just beginning, so the Pirates have opportunities to get back in the Conference USA race.

The Pirates charge into contention starts this weekend as they face off against Tulsa. The Pirates could also really make a name for themselves when they face off against Memphis on Feb. 8 and Feb. 22.

The first meeting in Greenville will be a statement game for the Pirates. If ECU has any hopes of making a run for an NIT or NCAA bid, they must take care of business

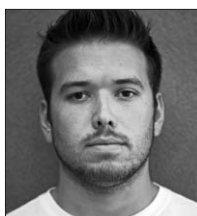
against Memphis, a team that year in and year out is the class of the C-USA.

Women's Basketball: The hits just keep coming for the women's basketball team. After an off-season filled with arrests and controversy, the Lady Pirates suffered another criminal issue. On Jan. 1, leading scorer Shala Hodges was charged with multiple criminal accounts including driving while impaired, reckless driving and underage drinking.

Hodges who averaged 22 minutes a game and 11 points join the list of ECU women's basketball play-

> **SPRING SCHEDULE** page A9

Bowl breakdown



Stephen McNulty
OPINION COLUMNIST

For a school like ECU, there should be little

attention paid to the rumblings about the fantasy of a playoff system in college football. The Pirates are years away from ever arguing for a chance to play for the National Championship.

However, what schools like ECU do play for is that one last game to prove yourself — a bowl game. Corny names and BCS arguments aside the bowl games are great opportunities for programs like the Pirates to make one final statement.

Unfortunately, the Pirates combined injuries with costly mistakes and a letdown of a season to miss out on an actual bowl game, and not just a virtual one. However, the finishes by the Pirates' opponents from the past season help to make clearer the puzzle of college football.

The Pirates season ended on the road in overtime against Marshall. The loss put ECU at 5-7 and one game short of bowl eligibility, while Marshall moved to 6-6 and on its way to the Beef O' Brady's Bowl in St. Petersburg, Fla. against Florida International.

Freshmen Rakeem Cato threw for 226 yards and a pair of touchdowns to lead Marshall over FIU 20-10.

Another one of the Pirates late season losses that kept them from the post season was a crushing 48-18 loss at home to the Conference USA Champion Southern Miss Golden Eagles.

For the first time in 17 years, the C-USA champion did not play in the Liberty Bowl. Instead, Southern Miss faced off against Nevada in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl.

The Golden Eagles sent now North Carolina head coach, Larry Fedora out with a win after Austin Davis threw a short touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter.

Southern Miss beat Houston, who slaughtered the Pirates 56-3 earlier in 2011, in the C-USA championship. The Cougars moved on to the TicketCity Bowl and a

> **BOWL** page A9

Women's basketball falls to UAB

Alex Serkes
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Pirates basketball team fell short of their first conference win against UAB Sunday afternoon, losing 44-39. ECU was already coming into the game shorthanded, as the team dressed only seven players. Senior Chareya Smith sat out Sunday's contest with concussion-like symptoms and freshman Dana Jones was ruled out with a foot injury. The loss of Shala Hodges, due to off-the-court issues, did not help the Pirates cause either.

Despite the lack of depth and senior leadership, younger players such as Katie Paschal and Janesha Ebron came off the bench and contributed solid minutes.

In the Pirates' first game at home since Dec. 7, it was a defensive battle and a low-scoring affair.

Both teams' shot less than 30 percent from the field, the Pirates shot at a 27 percent clip while holding the Blazers to a lousy 18 percent from the field. The 3-point percentages for both teams were low with UAB shooting 20 percent (5-24) from beyond the arc and ECU just 17 percent (3-17).

The defensive contest started from the opening tip of the first half until the final buzzer. With the score tied 20-20 at halftime, neither team scored a point in the final three minutes before halftime. That trend continued until three minutes into the second half, when UAB's LaShaunda Pratt finally knocked down the first points of the second half, as well as the first score in a six-minute span, with a 15-foot jumper.

With low-scoring percentages and totals from the floor, the game would go on to be won at the foul line. UAB had 26 free throw attempts compared to a measly five by the Pirates, knocking in 21 of those 26, which accounted for nearly half of the Blazers' points. The lack of size for the Pirates caused mismatches in the offensive game plan also, as ECU struggled to connect from inside the paint where the 6-foot-5 forward Meagan Brown of UAB controlled the paint.

The Blazers' Karisma Chapman led all scorers with 11, while ECU's Britny Edwards hauled in 12 rebounds and added nine points and three steals. Tatiana Chapple finished with eight points, as did Katie Paschal who had an impressive performance off the bench. Amber Jones also had a big day for the Blazers, putting up a line of eight points, eight rebounds and four assists.



Britny Edwards (42) attempts to back down a defending Blazer on Sunday afternoon at Minges Coliseum.

With the game tied at half, the Blazers came out of the gate much stronger than the Pirates, slowly building a 36-30 lead with 8:28 left to go in regulation. ECU answered back with a 5-0 run with 2:10 to go, cutting the lead to one.

After several failed offensive attempts to retake the lead, the Pirates found themselves on the bad end of a 42-39 deficit with 30 seconds on the clock.

> **LADY PIRATES** page A9

KNIGHTS continued from A8

from four of its starting five. Guard Isaiah Sykes logged a double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds while shooting an outstanding 10-15 from the floor. When Sykes wasn't making big plays at the basket, point guard AJ Rompza was raining 3s on

the Pirates. Rompza finished with 16 points on 6 of 8 from the floor, including 3-4 from behind the arc.

Forward Keith Clanton also had 16 and guard Marcus Jordan, who averages a team-leading 17.6 points per contest, was held to just 12 points.

The Pirates will try to get back on the winning track when they host Tulsa on Saturday afternoon. Tip-off at Minges Coliseum is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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

BOWL continued from A8

match up with Penn State. Just as he did against the Pirates, Case Keenum picked apart the Nittany Lion defense for 532 yards and three touchdowns. Nothing like Keenum though was the performance from PSU quarterback Rob Bolden. Bolden finished 7 for 26 with a touchdown and three interceptions in the 30-14 Houston victory.

UNC, who came into Greenville and beat the Pirates 35-20, got ran over by Missouri in the Independence Bowl. Two Missouri running backs broke 100 yards rushing and the Tigers

scored 31 first half points in the 41-24 win.

Another early season ACC foe that came into Greenville and beat the Pirates was Virginia Tech. The Hokies couldn't however come up with the same outcome against Michigan. In their first year under Brady Hoke, the Wolverines won the AllState Sugar Bowl. Brendan Gibbons hit a 37-yard field goal in overtime for the 23-20 win.

And finally, there's the South Carolina Gamecocks. After beating the Pirates to open the season in Charlotte, the Gamecocks went

on to finish 10-2 and earn a bid to the Capitol One Bowl against Nebraska.

Alshon Jeffery got ejected for fighting, but not before he caught four passes for 148 yards and a touchdown. South Carolina went on to win 30-13 for their 11th win of the season.

Everyone is subject to his or her own opinion on bowl games, but it's hard to complain about extra football, even if it's not your team.

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

SPRING SCHEDULE continued from A8

ers who have endured legal problems this season and it couldn't come at a worse time for Heather Macy's Pirates.

In the midst of a six-game losing streak, which takes their record to 6-8 overall, the Pirates most important game of the season comes this Sunday when they travel to Memphis.

Just like on the men's side, Memphis is one of the strongest teams in the conference every year. The Lady Pirates are in desperate need of a pick me up.

Baseball:

After not making the NCAA tournament last season, Billy Godwin's group will look to return to the regionals and fight for their first ever appearance in the College World Series.

To make it there, the Pirates will have to go through a fierce conference schedule, but they will make their money in four non-conference match-ups against North Carolina and North Carolina State.

Softball:

With the loss of all-star pitcher Toni Paisley, the Pirate

softball team will have to find new ways to be successful.

With games against perennial top 25 finishers Alabama, Houston and Tulsa, softball will most likely take a few bumps before they hit their stride.

With all these games happening in the span of a couple weeks, it will be an exciting time to be a student or fan of ECU sports.

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LADY PIRATES continued from A8

On the ensuing play, Paschall managed to get free and put up a potential tying 3-point shot, but it clanged left off the rim. Kristine Mial grabbed the offensive board and attempted a put back lay-up to at least give the Pirates more life, but missed. UAB was able to run the

floor and allowed the clock to run out.

"The kids are showing so much heart and so much resilience right now, and I am very proud of them," said Macy on Sunday. "It's just a level of we've got to sit down and shoot it better than we have been and we will."

The Lady Pirates will travel to Memphis on Monday seeking their first conference win while preventing an 0-3 record in conference play to start the season.

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

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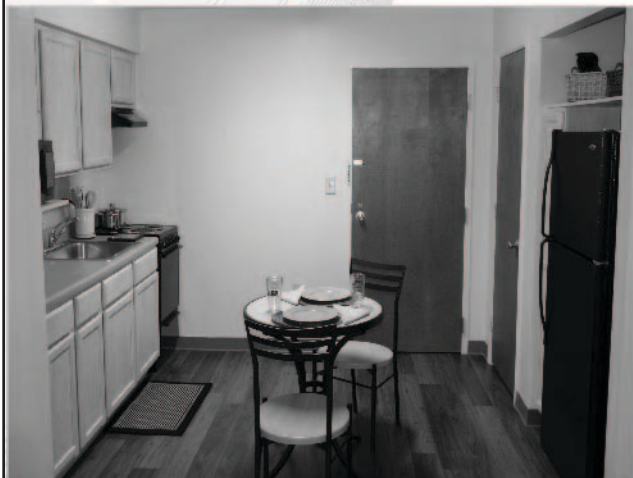
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