



BRIEFS

NC professor, author, musician to give speech

Staff Reports

Bland Simpson, a North Carolina native and Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor of English and Creative Writing of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is scheduled to speak on campus.

Simpson will present the Thomas Harriot Lecture in the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series at 7 p.m. tonight.

Simpson is also celebrated author and musician. He has written more than seven books, including "Heart of the Country, A Novel of Southern Music" and "The Coasts of Carolina: Seaside to Sound Country."

Joyner library offers prizes for research

Staff Reports

The Rhem/Schwarzmann Prize is given annually and recognizes outstanding research papers written by sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Cash prizes in the amounts of \$750, \$500 and \$250 are awarded to first, second and third place winners, respectively.

Students considering submission for the 2012 cycle must write based largely on primary sources from J.Y. Joyner Library's Manuscript and Rare Books Department or the University Archives.

Papers must be no less than 12 pages or 3,000 words in length, written during the Fall 2012 semester, and must be submitted electronically by the professor for whom it was written by December 31, 2012.

Winning papers will be chosen by a panel of three professors selected by the library's assistant director for Special Collections.

Foreign languages department to celebrate Language Day

Staff Reports

In an effort to raise awareness of the linguistic diversity worldwide, and among communities, the university will join with United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's celebration of International Mother Language Day on Feb. 21.

The events will begin at 5 p.m. in Joyner Library and will continue for a second day on Feb. 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. in room 1032 of the Bate building.

Joyner Library changes hours of operation

Staff Reports

Due to many student requests and concerns, as well as feedback from recent surveys, Joyner Library has extended its spring semester operating hours.

Library hours will be extended on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will add seven hours to the current schedule, bringing the total to 116.5 hours of operation.

From Monday to Thursday, the library will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. On Friday, the hours will run from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Changes coming to campus

Megan Stalls
STAFF WRITER

Students on the university's campus have seen rebuilding and remodeling for some time now. Crews have been working on the Spillman Building and Campus Towers since Hurricane Irene, repairing the damage the storm caused.

Tyler Hall on College Hill is currently being remodeled to look more like a dorm with a brick façade.

There has also been talk about Belk Hall being demolished in order to make a new split residence hall, with College Hill Drive running through it to join with East Fourteenth Street. The curve that is in front of Belk would also be straightened, or even taken out.

People have also been talking about a possible parking deck across from the Greenville Town Commons or downtown.

Many of the speculations come from open forums that were held last year, where faculty, staff and students were able to see a campus growth plan that held possibilities for the next 15 years.

Among the proposals was an option called, "Go North," that would expand ECU along Reade Street north of Fifth Street. It included a performing arts center at the site of the Willis Building and a 1,000-space parking deck beside of Mendenhall.

"I heard that they couldn't do the parking deck because of something with the ground or foundation," said senior communication major Katherine Whitfield.

The newest master plan was accepted last year with a 20-to 25-year outlook.

Students also have their own ideas about what they would like to see change on campus.

"I can't think of anything major, like construction, that I'd like to see," said Whitfield. "I do think they should put some security cameras on the third floor of Joyner. People

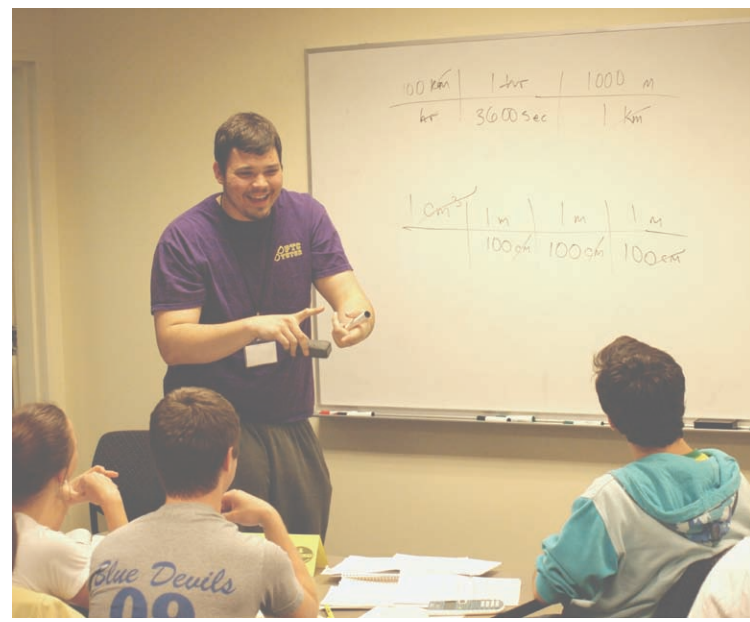


JOHN DAVIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Tyler Hall is undergoing a redesign adding bricks to the outer layer to look similar to other dorms.

> CAMPUS page A2

Online tutoring for UNC -System



CHELSEA GUNTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

UNC-System schools may begin online tutoring on the WebAssign program.

Jamie Harper
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to offset educational budget cuts and provide enhanced student learning, the UNC System may begin to offer online tutoring using the WebAssign program, which is an online homework service.

John Risley, the chief executive and physics professor at North Carolina State University, along with a group of academics, created the WebAssign program. In 2007 program, housed under Advanced Instructional Systems, plans to begin marketing its tutoring features specifically toward students.

While using WebAssign, instructors have the ability to create assignments online and send them to their students electronically. WebAssign automatically grades assignments and feedback is instantaneous. The program, currently used by 1,900 educational institutions, also has secure testing

options, a grade book, a course calendar, "Ask a Teacher" link, comprehensive support and faculty collaboration.

Lauren Robinson, a tutor with the Pirate Tutoring Center, said, "I think it may have the potential, but it may not be as good as face-to-face. Even when some students come in, they still have problems understanding, and have to go to different tutors because everyone learns different."

In order to provide online tutoring, the program uses information that is learned about each student from answers they have gotten incorrect on a test or assignment and then creates an instant tutoring availability.

"I don't like reading articles online; I like to print it out. So that could be the same for students, they may just not like the online part of it," said Robinson.

The program also has the capabilities to combine answers from

courses that may affect each other, such as algebra and physics, to provide the best data analyzed to use for aiding students.

"We want to help students measure on their own, not only what they're doing, but why," said Mark Santee, director of marketing for WebAssign, according to the Daily Tar Heel.

By analyzing incorrect answers, the program assists the student in identifying where their specific learning problem may be.

Meghan Lell, a senior biology major, said, "Personally, I don't prefer using technology as much. I like the one-on-one interaction better. Some people will love using the technology instead, though." Lell, an undergraduate assistant for the biology department, tutors students who need help in certain classes.

The tutoring feature would also be available 24 hours a day to students.

"It would be cool. It's like a live study guide," said John Stancill, a freshman engineering major. "It would also be more assessable for students because everyone has the Internet. I think it could be helpful."

Students also have the option, if granted by the instructor, to re-submit answers for less credit.

By using the program to grade assignments, money may be saved on paying teaching assistants to spend hours doing it by hand.

In 2010, the program marked its five millionth student user and one-billionth answer processed. There is an average of 500,000 students using the program per semester.

According to the News and Observer, the start-up of WebAssign created an estimated 3,100 jobs in North Carolina.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

ECU gets 'redlight' for speech code rating

Caitlin Hunnicutt
STAFF WRITER

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) gave the university a speech code rating of red in the Spotlight on Speech Codes of 2012.

According to the Spotlight on Speech Codes, "a red light institution is one that has at least one policy both clearly and substantially restricting freedom of speech, or that bars public access to its speech-related policies by requiring a university login and password for access."

To be listed as a red light school, the policies in place will be obvious to the threat of free speech and it would not depend on how the policy was applied, according to FIRE.

There are two other possible listings, yellow and green light. "A yellow light institution maintains policies that can be interpreted to suppress protected speech or policies that, while clearly restricting freedom of speech, restrict only narrow categories of speech," according to FIRE.

If a university is found to have policies that do not seriously restrict freedom of speech or expression, FIRE lists the university as a green light school.

FIRE surveyed publicly-available policies at 288 four-year public universities. Of these universities and institutions, 65 percent received a red light rating, 30 percent received a yellow light rating, and 5 percent received a green light rating. In

> REDLIGHT page A2

INSIDE

OPINION

Check inside to hear about Chelsey McClougherty's rough semester. **A4**

LIFESTYLES

Turn to Lifestyles to hear from the student behind the ECU Squirrels Twitter account! **A6**

SPORTS

Turn to Sports to read about the 18 football recruits that signed with ECU on Wednesday. **A8**

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CAMPUS continued from A1

are there really late during exams and some parts are really secluded and creepy. I think they need more than just a security officer walking around. It would be cheaper to just get security cameras than remodel the building to make it more open."

Junior public health major Amanda Branscome has a specific improvement idea in mind. "We really need more parking places for people who don't have permits," said Branscome. "It should be paid parking, so people wouldn't abuse it, but there should be spots to park where you won't get towed."

According to Mary Schulken, executive director of communication, public rela-

tions and marketing for the university, Belk Hall will be split in two and there will be a parking deck.

"The thing to remember, with a plan that has such a long outlook, is that it is subject to change. This is the first master plan that we've had in over 20 years."

In the new master plan, there will be a parking deck built in conjunction with a new student center, just to the south of Mendenhall and the Student Recreation Center. Mendenhall will still exist, but will be converted to another purpose because, according to Schulken, "It was built in 1974, opened in 1974, and we had 13,000 to 14,000 students. Now we have

28,000. It just isn't adequate for its use."

"College Hill will be straightened out," Schulken said. "It'll run straight into Fourteenth (Street). One side of Belk will be a modern, updated dorm and the other side will be the Living and Learning Center. It'll focus mainly on integrating freshmen into campus life and it will probably be the new headquarters for the Pirate Tutoring Center."

Another update to College Hill will be a new, established campus police facility.

"Right now, the office is on Tenth Street, and there just isn't enough room with the conference rooms and there aren't offices for key people,"

said Schulken.

"The core of campus will become more pedestrian," Schulken said, regarding Founder's Drive and the surrounding roads. "They will be opened up for emergency vehicles and people moving in, though. We want to show that we are focused on making getting around campus easy and efficient."

Officials began working on a new campus master plan in 2010 with the help of students, faculty, staff, members of Greenville's community, and various Pitt County community groups.

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

REDLIGHT continued from A1

addition, 2012 received the highest green light rating in history.

"It's the students responsibility to know the policies and to either object to them or adhere to them," said

Brian Massey, professor for the School of Communication. "Government, as well, must well publicize those policies."

FIRE's website breaks down which part of the uni-

versity's policies were rated. One part of the university's harassment policy was given a green light, while two other's were given a yellow light. Policies on restricting freedom of conscience, free speech zones and Internet usage policies also all earned a yellow light.

"Part of having free speech is tolerating free speech you don't like. A lot of people don't get that, and that's where our freedoms and civil liberties start getting eroded," said Massey.

The policies on tolerance, respect and civility earned the university a red light rating. The policy is highlighted on the website, along with an excerpt including part of the policy that states, "Bigotry has no place within the East Carolina residential community, nor does the right to denigrate another individual on the basis of age, physical challenge, national origin, sexual orientation, race, political affiliation, gender, or religious affiliation. Verbal or written abuse, threats, intimidation, violence, or

other forms of harassment against any member of the residential community will not be tolerated."

Kayleigh Gilmore, a senior biology and chemistry major, said, "The university promotes diversity, which means having different views and opinions. So what may be an inappropriate form of speech to some, may not be inappropriate to others."

FIRE's website breaks down all of the policies into extensive detail and highlights which part of the university's policies are restricting on freedom of speech.

"I feel like some restrictions are necessary to keep our school a safe and friendly environment to learn (in), but I do think that freedom of speech is a right that we've earned as citizens of this country and as ECU students," said Katie Hollingsworth, a sophomore adapted special education major.

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

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CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, in the Tuesday edition of *The East Carolinian*, the article entitled "University reveals program cuts and investments" had an incorrect title. The committee only recommended the cuts or investments and did not implement them.

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PIRATE RANTS

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

To the girl who got arrested downtown this weekend... Is it really a good decision to come to mug night? Give it a break!

Yoga pants + a long walk across campus = sore neck. How's that for math?

If drinking were a sport, I'd be Michael Phelps.

Thanks ECU Conduct Board for making everyone question my driver's license. Sincerely, everyone from Pennsylvania.

I lived on campus four years and I would recommend it to zero people.

How many ECU character Twitter accounts will it take before someone actually makes one even slightly funny?

Pirate Rants make me lose hope. In our society, our culture and our generation.

To the girl behind me in Media Effects who muttered that all guys are shallow: I heard that. What if I said that all girls are golddigging skanks? I thought so...

The crimes aren't committed downtown GPD, they are committed on the walk home... Do your job better, for the sake of our community.

Instead of pursuing underage drinking, ALE should pursue drunk drivers. They actually cause a problem, while my alcohol content of 0.02 does not.

Ask yourself the question, does ALE really do anything positive for the community?

Dear professor, I would never have noticed the girl in the back texting until you called attention to it. YOU are more of a distraction by calling people out than they would have ever been. Thanks a lot for making the rest of class awkward.

I don't wear yoga pants to the gym because they look hot. I wear them because I don't like to shave in winter.

Alumni who write Pirate Rants are kind of like those creepers who hung around their old high school three years after graduating.

Joking about a DUI is never funny, but the fact that your roommate is 24 and still in college is.

Boomroasted.

Don't let the angry preacher hear about the "freedom of expression" wall. He'll have a heyday on that sh**.

I got a lap dance from a girl at the titty bar in Raleigh. Come to find out, she lives at North Campus Crossing.

The 4 S's in life: sleep, smoke, snack, and sex. Repeat...

She said, "I love you Kyle," I said "Me too."

To the guy in the banana suit at the rave, those girls you were dancing with were some monster gorillas.

I don't have a drinking problem. I pretty much have it figured out.

My professor blasting Bob Marley before class makes me feel better about having all this THC in my system.

I wonder how all the girls felt getting dressed to go downtown but instead go to a 45-minute concert in Wright.

An eye for an eye leaves the whole world full of pirates.

Attendance, not à la carte



Sidney Davis
OPINION COLUMNIST
@FearLoathingTEC
Sophomore English Major

Every so often, I am struck, in the midst of my weekly slog through classes, by a peculiar complaint voiced by so many students here at our fine institution. Usually preceded by the initial story of their professor's attendance policy, or hard-on for punctuality, or otherwise burdensome pedagogical quirk, the student will make the statement that has irked me this long into my education: "I'm paying to be here, so why should they have a say in what I do during class?"

I believe the people who have problems with attendance, punctuality, discipline, and basic inter-human social behavior are the best sort of people that have ever graced this campus. I'd never show anything but love for those with week-day hangovers, the stoners, the drinkers, or the sorts of students whose weekly (or, sometimes, daily) intake of strange substances boggle the understanding of even a practiced hedonist. These are the sorts of people who the sub-par excuses for late or less-than-exemplary work best embody. However, it is because I love and respect this certain subset of ECU's otherwise prestigious and distinguished student body that I will make a case against them.

Education is more than just a product, no matter how it has been packaged. The semester-by-semester assault on the very fiber of higher learning is one of consumerism and economic viability. The workplace demands prior training, the molding of a left-brained, mostly left-leaning college student into an efficient, nine-to-five citizen.

Our professors, whether you

know it or not, have been in the trenches of this battle from day one of their tenure here, as activists for our education instead of accomplices to our enslavement. They fight not to make us better students, but better people; to pursue truth, not just a diploma. One would be surprised at how much faculty, despite their ties and briefcases, are really part of the aforementioned subsection of society. A society that has conformed to the social normalcy of taxpaying primates as long as it was necessary to continue being paid (meagerly, might I add). Would anyone but an idealist be a part of this troubled profession?

So what then, if they ask us to sit up straight, be on time, and turn in the odd assignment? They're trying to help us, and despite the initial gut reaction, the "You're one of them!" mentality that would see these brilliant men and women as part of the great, oppressive hive-mind of the loosely-defined "Man" who has been keeping us down for so long, it is actually quite different. They want you to pass off, as they do, with the rest of the ordinary Americans you'll be bumping shoulders with for the remainder of your life. They want you to be able to retain your soul and still pay rent. God help you, but someday you might even wake up, to your horror and disgust, in a workplace that drug tests!

My hope in writing this is that the average student will recognize exactly what they're doing by making the case for a "the customer's always right"-style of education. Higher learning is about more than a job, or even a career. And yes, you, or at least your parents, are paying tuition here, but you don't own your professor's time. They don't work for



MADALYN MCCLEOD JOHNSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

your tips, and they certainly don't answer to you, despite what faint feelings of dominance you may have gained from filling out your end-of-course SOIS forms. They are, however, struggling for your betterment on a daily basis, and all they ask in return is a little respect, and something faintly resembling effort. Give them this much, if only for the fear that someday you

might wind up doing something similar in the future. Who knows? Even they may have had such fears in college.

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

iCiao, Italia!



Chelsey McClougherty
OPINION COLUMNIST
@Uhavnoida420
Senior communication major

I can't begin to recall how many times I told people about my plans to spend the spring semester in Italy. Papers were being signed, dues were paid and my mind was set!

People would ask, "Really? Have you booked your flight yet?" And I always proudly responded, "Yep, I'm leaving in February!"

So, now, you are all wondering why I'm writing an article from overseas. But sadly my friends, this story doesn't have a fairy tale ending, but rather like a crash and burn.

I spent the Fall 2011 semester rearranging my life and obsessing over the semester to come. I told current employers I was leaving, with a slight smirk on my face, because I have to at least brag a little. I told my family, friends, co-workers, and even professors about my upcoming life-changing experience. I'd given them the whole spiel.

"I'm going to live in a small town called Certaldo in Italy and visit Rome, Sicily, Pompeii, Milan and who knows where I'll venture for my spring break."

Not a day went by that I didn't think of how I was taking my first trip out of the country. I was planning for it to be a life-changing experience. The perks of the program were endless and jaw dropping. I was beyond explainable excitement.

Then, as a senior communication major, a bomb was dropped on me in mid-October. The only words that matter from the phone conversation were, "I'm sorry, but the communication courses have all been cancelled because not enough students signed up to make the budget."

I'm not even sure what I said the rest of the phone call, but I do know that after I hung up it took me the longest time to find the words to tell everyone (including myself) that I was no longer going.

Italy Intensives Study Abroad Program is one of the most affordable programs offered at ECU and it's even cheaper than the cost of being an out-of-state student at ECU. The positives of the program, created and overseen by Linda Darty, who is the director of Italy Intensives, are endless. Students experience so much and develop in so many new ways.

Calling all the way from Rome to comment on the unfortunate matter, Darty stated, "I started this program because I studied abroad when I was in college and I wanted to share the experience I had, which was truly a life-changing one, with other students today." She then sor-

Saying "goodbye" to semester abroad

rowfully continued, "I regret assuming we would get enough students to sign up for the classes to make the budget. It always fills right up during the three-week summer program, so I was very optimistic about obtaining enough numbers."

For the trip, I, along with 21 other students, signed up and began to prepare to leave Greenville behind. I particularly made some drastic changes. I moved to a one bedroom, month-to-month apartment, in a not-so-nice location, so I didn't have to sign a year lease. I told my newspaper and radio employers that I was leaving, I broke off a two-year relationship, rearranged my course schedule to work with the classes I was signed up for in Italy and so much more.

The mental mind set, though, was the worst shock to get over. One minute, I thought I was going to be living in a beautiful town in Italy for months. And then, in a flash, I received the phone call. Now, I had to slowly put my life back together in Greenville.

ECU professor Cindy Elmore, recruiter and on-campus Italy Intensive help, was also stunned by the sudden cancellation. "I felt just as shocked as the students," she said. "I was led to believe that we had enough students in late April and recruited as much as I could."

It was devastating for many, not just me. Other students had to make new arrangements, as well as faculty, and money had to be refunded to those who couldn't go, including airline tickets.

Plans need to be made sooner and better communication is absolutely necessary. It's not fair for any individual to be blindsided by something so life changing! Communication majors still have the opportunity to go to Italy this summer for three weeks. However, the experience is constant traveling, not a live-in situation. More information about the program can be found through the Division of Continuing Studies, as well as found online at CFACItalyIntensives.ecu.edu or on the programs blog.

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

POLL RESULTS

Who do you want to win Superbowl XLVII?

Giants 72% Patriots 28%

WEB POLL

Would you utilize an online tutoring system?

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Winter albums analyzed



Stephen Mason
COLUMNIST

Because my last column was in late November, this column will feature albums released in late 2011 — five leftover Christmas snacks and a slightly-polished piece of coal. One in particular, Wussy's *Strawberry*, should have made the top ten of my best-of list but slipped by me. So ashamed am I for relegating it to the Honorable Mentions that I feel nothing short of an obligation to inform you good people of my folly. Last note: For the record, I prefer the Roots' "The OtherSide" to Betty Wright's "Baby Come Back." You'll know what I mean.

THE BLACK KEYS – *El Camino*:

Blooze-schlock of the gods. Clearly, Auerbach and Carney contribute the success of *Brothers to Danger* Mouse-produced single "Tighten Up" rather than their own handiwork. Why else rehire the fool responsible for their worst album to direct their second worst album (or third worst, if you dislike *Magic Potion*)? Tumbling drums and roaring, gear-shifting riffs sound like the rumbling-if-clunky engine of the album's namesake, though too often the glitzy production makes it ride as shoddy as the decrepit minivan on the cover. It's as painfully pleasing as it is paradoxical. It's their *In Through the Out Door* to *The Big Come Up's Led Zeppelin II*. It's like white trash with class.

KATE BUSH – *50 Words for Snow*:

Seven songs — the shortest of which clocks in at 6:49 — constitute the art-rockers' most grueling affair, crawling one finger-punched piano key over sparse drum arrangement for more than an hour. Wish I could say it's chock-full of jokes, but Bush asserts the funniest parts are deadly serious: One is Stephen Fry's dramatic recitation of Bush-penned nonsense words on the title track. Another is when she starts the album with the longest song she's ever written (9:48), followed by the longest song she's ever written (11:08), followed by the longest song she's ever written (13:32). And the part where she has sex with a snowman? She says it's not a joke, either. Even when the snowman wets the bed.

THE ROOTS – *Undun*:

Not as pleasing cut-for-cut like *Rising Down* or *How I Got Over*, and shorter too. Add that it's a dark, near-humorless and hard-to-follow concept album told in reverse (!) and you might tally a third strike. Nevertheless, I have no problem being unable to fully realize a specific timeline for the life of fictional Redford Stephens. I prefer it that way. Explicitness leads to literal condemnation of thug life doubling as critique of crime-aggrandizing hip-hop. Implicitness provides wider social commentary, allowing the grey areas of lines like "Every night I'm crossing a line that ain't the finish" or "When that paper got low so did my tolerance / And there ain't no truth in a dare without the consequence" on money-oriented "The OtherSide" stand as illuminating comparisons between high-profile hustling and, say, the disconnection from reality our financial elite experience in their risky pursuit of profits. Before you ask: No, I don't think the character Redford recognizes this connection, though I'll bet Black Thought does. Absurd enough for ya'? That could be the joke as much as the absurd sequencing itself. Because really, who else but the Roots would cue the overture after the album is over?

> REVIEWS page A7

Squirrels go nuts tweeting



ERIKE KHALIL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A squirrel hangs out in a tree on campus. The creator of the ECU Squirrels Twitter has given these squirrels humorous personalities via social media.

Leila Falls
STAFF WRITER

The tweet trend has directly hit Greenville, with almost 4,000 Twitter users following the ECU Squirrels.

The Twitter account started in November, shortly after the creator thought it was hilarious that there was an ECU Squirrels Facebook page (currently with 2,187 likes and 27 "talking-about-this").

"There wasn't a Twitter, so I wanted to give it a shot," said the anonymous creator, who revealed being an English education major.

"I have to thank the Gun-

brella-man for it," said the ECU Squirrels creator, who landed 2,000 followers in two hours during lockdown.

Many followers enjoy the humor behind the tweets. "If he was drinking underage, he'd be arrested already," is senior English major John Hinson's favorite tweet from the Gunbrella-day.

While some followers know the creator personally, others are not even Pirates.

"There's someone who graduated from (University of North Carolina at Greensboro) that follows, and one that goes to Texas — not just Greenville," said the creator, who likes it when people ask the Squirrels questions.

"When someone asks 'What did you guys (the squirrels) do last night,' that's just funny," laughed the creator, who loves the fact that the Old Cafeteria Complex cat has a twitter now. "It makes me feel like I'm not the only crazy one."

The domestically wild squirrels of ECU are notorious for their odd behavior, like being fed by people. "A girl tweeted a pic-

ture of a squirrel eating out of her hand and then I re-tweeted it," said the creator who admits he's fed the tree-dwelling Pirates before.

After about 750 tweets, the creator hopes to keep up the humor by tweeting every day. "Sometimes I feel like an idiot (with some of the tweets), but it's like inside jokes — my humor," said the creator, who abandoned his personal twitter to keep the ECU Squirrels world updated. ECU Squirrels eat mostly Chick-fil-A, pizza, peanut butter, and party with PBR. "They go downtown by getting into people's pockets and bags; they were at the Lonnie Walker show this past weekend," said the creator of the squirrel-of-view scenarios.

Some of the squirrels featured have names and personalities assigned to them, like Durden the spokesman, Carl the sweetheart and cookie baker, Mr. Fuzz the jerk, and Dartagian the musketeer. Occasionally, a few of them are swooped up by Henery the Hawk, whose name originated from an iPhone-induced typo.

So far, the biggest squirrel threat was the fox that lurked around campus on Monday. "I heard the fox is in Rivers with hostages," said a tweet from the squirrel's account. The account's creator saw the fox visit as the gunbrella incident for squirrels.

"I love how they act, talking about real ECU situations and

problems. I can relate to some of the crazy things they say," said freshman Lindsay Hayes, a clinical laboratory science major, who finds the tweets amusing to follow.

With every follower the Twitter account loses, there is a two-to-three follower gain per day, according to the creator.

"Even Rumors follows us. I try not to be a marketing tool but do have the capability to help out a business or person," said the creator who was excited to get an invitation from a marketing professor to come into class as a guest lecturer.

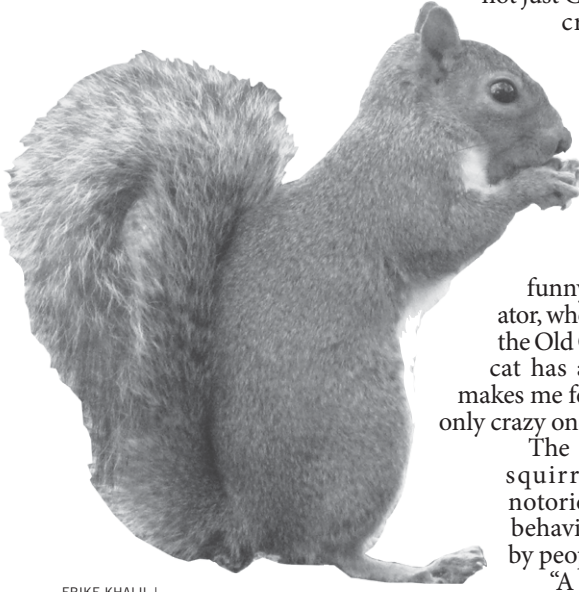
Only his close friends and the people he might have run into downtown know the Squirrels creator's identity, which is only occasionally reveals it. "I just see it as a separate thing, another personality and I enjoy it," said Hinson, who supports his friend's ECU Squirrels comedy.

Before graduating, the Squirrel creator hopes to team up with Dowdy to launch an ECU Squirrels t-shirt, with proceeds going towards the Animal Hospital.

"I'd feel accomplished if people were walking around with t-shirts," said Squirrels creator.

ECU Squirrels might act strange at times, but even their brief Twitter fight with the UNC Squirrels is "all good now."

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



ERIKE KHALIL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Café Duo opens in Greenville

Sara Davis
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day is rapidly approaching and a romantic restaurant is always appropriate for the occasion. Luckily for the students and staff of ECU, Café Duo has recently opened its doors in Lynndale Shoppes.

The restaurant was brought to life seven years ago when Chris and Mayra Shireman moved to Greenville from Miami, Fla. They both graduated from Johnson & Wales University with degrees in culinary and pastry arts. "We had been visiting friends in Washington during the fall for many years and we just loved the area of Greenville," said Mayra. So, they decided to leave the crowds in Miami and settle down and have their family in Greenville.

First, they opened Café Duo in Winterville. "We named it Café Duo because there are two of us and we are both chefs," Mayra stated. It was a popular restaurant, but it was very small compared to the current location, which can seat up to 75 people. "We moved Café Duo to Chocowinity and closed the Winterville location and people were very sad to see us go," she noted. Now, they have opened the restaurant's second location in Greenville and many people are excited at the prospect of the new location. Mayra believes it is in the perfect location since it is near the university and the hospital. Café Duo does take reservations on a regular basis, but walk-ins are more than welcome. It is also possible to get take-out for brunch, lunch and

dinner.

The menu is full of delicious options, which are all made from scratch. "Nothing here is frozen or premade," Mayra stated with pride. There is always a daily special or a catch of the day. This can be anything from fresh swordfish or salmon to a seafood risotto. On the dinner menu, there is Soft Shell Crab, Chick Forestiere, Charbroiled Ribeye and Fettuccine Bolognese. The lunch menu boasts panini's and salads. Mayra focuses on pastries,

while her husband prefers to create pastas and foods with a European flair. A German chef and an Italian chef, who remain good friends with the Shireman's, mentored Chris. The restaurant offers lunch and dinner Tuesday through Saturday and brunch on Sunday. This brunch has pastries, which are freshly baked by Mayra herself. These include pecan sticky buns, danishes and turnovers.

The restaurant has a full bar so that people can come and enjoy a nice glass of wine or a mixed drink.

"Our main goal was to make a restaurant with good food, reasonable prices, good service and a casual atmosphere," Mayra stated. She wanted people to know that this is not supposed to be a fine-dining atmosphere. It is supposed to be a place where people can relax and enjoy their wine after work. The dimmed lights and soft music help to make this a relaxing location.

> CAFE page A7



LACEY SCHWAB | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Café Duo just opened its second location in Greenville on Memorial Drive. Its other location is in Chocowinity.

REVIEWS continued from A6

AMY WINEHOUSE – Lioness: Hidden Treasures: Posthumous proof that Winehouse was a jazz singer tempted by the allure of doo-wop from inception to untimely death. The evidence: Her sleek, sexy, scat-tastic cover of “The Girl from Ipanema,” the best-ever version of “Valerie” and the original recording of “Tears Dry” emphasizing the song’s heart rather than its energy. I won’t take any complaints about too many covers or underwhelming production. Truth is, both qualities let Winehouse the Artist’s voice reinvent and direct the material rather than compete against it — a pitfall apparent in *Back to Black*’s overt attempt to rebirth that Motown sound. Rest easy, sweet lioness.

BETTY WRIGHT & THE ROOTS – Betty Wright: The Movie: Released under the radar in late November, this near 80-minute R&B workout functions best when veteran vocalist Wright carries her own weight. Black Thought must have been the only Roots crewmember unavailable, as it’s inconceivable that Wright, who paints this set with strong-woman portraits, would opt for guest performances from Lil Wayne and proud pimp Snoop Dogg. Of course, it seems no accident that the strongest cut here — the viscerally funky “Look Around,” whose subtitle is “Be a Man” — directly follows Wayne’s less-than-competent delivery, undercutting his dopey masculinity and asserting her status as more of a woman than most men are men. Especially those two clowns.

WUSSY – Strawberry: I’m hardly acquainted with their discography and know nothing of their following in hometown Cincinnati. I know even less about

their two vocalists — one male, older and eccentric; one female, younger and self-aware — beyond the possibility that they’re screwing. All I know is that this album is the antithesis of the acoustic re-imaginings of fellow 2011 release *Funeral Dress II*. Its overwhelming wash of guitar reverb and fuzzy bass riffs are both the first and last thing you hear: Walls of electric guitars open “Asteroid” with a duet howl of “Way out...” that could be mistaken for animal cries, yet you’re more likely to remember old man Cleaver wail “Does he cross all your T’s? Does he dot all your I’s? / Does he tell you more believable lies?” on “Wrist Rocket” than the descending bass line backed by soaring guitar distortion. Meaning their emotional punch outweighs instrumentation every time.

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

CAFE

continued from A6

There are two big windows so patrons can see the outdoor world. The beautiful arches outside of the restaurant are adorned with lion-head sculptures. There is also a terrace outside, which the restaurant hopes to use when it gets warmer.

On Valentine’s Day, Café Duo will only have a prefixed menu. It can be previewed on their website, CafeDuoRestaurant.com or on Facebook. The night is reservation only and it will cost \$85 per couple. “The night is already filling up,” Mayra said. She noted that the evening will have a much more romantic atmosphere than usual. Nathan Mills, a guitarist from the School of Music, will be playing songs during the evening.

Café Duo, with its relaxing atmosphere and delicious menu options, is sure to become a restaurant choice for many people in Greenville. There will also be those few lucky couples that will get the wonderful Valentine’s dinner and experience that Café Duo has to offer.

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

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Air time influences recruit rankings

Stephen McNulty
OPINION COLUMNIST
@stephenmcmnulty



As media power-houses like ESPN continue to grow and affect every facet of

sports, the line between biased and objective is shrinking.

With so much interest in the outcome of games, coaching changes and player signings, it's easy to see why some people would believe networks have a bias.

One example is the controversial Longhorn Network, a regional sports network that is partially owned by ESPN, that covers the University of Texas at Austin athletics. This is an enormous public relations and recruiting move for Texas, but when ESPN said they planned to air high school football games, other members of the Big 12 conference were outraged and forced the idea of broadcasting these games to be postponed.

The issue between major networks and biases hit a little closer to home recently as well. There has been a lot of buzz around Pirate Nation over Under Armour All-American Lucas Thompson.

Thompson, a senior out of Winter Garden, Fla., committed to the Pirates on ESPN during the Under Armour All-American game. According to ESPN, he is a four-star safety, ranked seventh at his position and 136th overall in the country, making him one of the highest-rated recruits in ECU history.

Now, I am by no means challenging the rankings published by ESPN's scouts, nor am I saying I do not think that Thompson is a special player. In fact, the little bit of Thompson I have seen was very impressive and he really does pop off the screen. However, according to other recruiting databases, Thompson is not nearly as highly rated.

Scout.com gave Thompson only three stars, ranked him 96th at the safety position, and did not rank him inside the nation's top 150 players. Meanwhile, Rivals, part of Yahoo!, also ranks Thompson as a three-star. Rivals, who I trust most in terms of rankings, left Thompson out of the top 150, but ranked him the 17th best safety and 48th best player in the state of Florida.

Why would ESPN so drastically rank one player ahead of others? Easy answer, Thompson played in and announced his decision at a game that was aired on ESPN. If ESPN advertised another three-star, who is not even top 10 at his position, signing during the game, you can imagine there would be a lot less anticipation.

Ironically enough, there is also a difference between the two top-ranked safeties on Rivals and ESPN. Landon Collins, infamous for choosing Alabama against his mother's wishes on national television, is ranked as the best safety and sixth overall, according to ESPN. On the other hand, Rivals ranks Collins as the second best safety, and 17th overall player in the nation. Instead, Rivals ranks Shaq Thompson as the best safety and fourth best player in the nation. ESPN has Shaq Thompson as the third best safety and 16th best player in the country. The catch, Collins announced his decision at the Under Armour All-America game, and Shaq Thompson didn't even participate.

Again, I am not arguing who the better safety is, I simply want to draw to your attention to the fact that there are plenty of reasons for major networks like ESPN to fluff up their rankings in order to improve the perception of their programming.

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Pirates tame Mustangs



Robert Sampson (12) goes up for a breakaway dunk against SMU on Wednesday.

Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER
@jordan_anders

The ECU men's basketball team is a squad just two games removed from a six-game losing streak.

If you were inside Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum Wednesday night, you sure wouldn't know it.

The Pirates turned in one of their best performances of the season at both ends of the floor, earning their second consecutive win in Conference USA play by turning away Southern Methodist, 62-43.

"(It's a) good win for our team," said Head Coach Jeff Lebo. "I thought we did a lot of nice things out there tonight, rebounding and getting some high percentage shots."

Robert Sampson led the Pirates with 13 points, all of which came in the second half. Maurice Kemp added 11 for ECU, which came into the night having lost five of the seven all-time meetings between these two programs.

Sampson had an interesting night. He had a steal and fast break opportunity early in the second half, only to clank the ball off the back of the rim on his breakaway dunk attempt and subsequently earn a technical foul for hanging on the rim.

Sampson, who played heavy second-half minutes due to Darrius Morrow being saddled with foul

trouble, responded with remarkable maturity. After not recording a single statistic in the first half, he ended the night with six rebounds, two assists and one block, in addition to the 13 points. He was a perfect 3-3 from behind the arc.

"(Sampson) played well," Lebo said. "He had to kind of come through some adversity with some missed layups and the missed dunk. He was active tonight, and actually kind of played better after he missed that dunk. Most guys would go in the tank, so give him credit for that."

Indeed, Sampson was still scoreless at the 18:24 mark of the second when he missed the slam. But rather than hang his head, the 6-foot-8 sophomore did the only thing he could possibly do: laugh.

"It happens to the best of us," he said, still smiling about it. "I was just having fun out there, trying to give (everyone) a show. So I just laughed it off."

His teammates weren't so quick to forget. "He's going to hear about it," said Kemp, laughing.

Following the miss, Sampson scored 11 of the team's next 15 points, including all three of his 3-pointers, the final one of which he banked in from the top of the key.

His performance culminated a night in which the Pirates took a huge step towards putting the struggles of their six-game skid

> PIRATES page A9

'Wright' decision

Senior catcher returns for final season

Justin Ackley
STAFF WRITER
@justin_ackley

The first week in June is an exciting time for most people around the country. The summer is fast approaching, with plans being made and plenty of fun to be had. For elite high school and college baseball players, it can be a time filled with anxiety, excitement and confusion.

Each June, Major League Baseball holds its First-Year Player Draft. The draft is open to high school seniors and collegiate players at least three years removed from high school.

Last year, Zach Wright was one of the players who were drafted from an ECU squad that finished 41-21 and included five other selections by MLB clubs. Wright was picked by the Philadelphia Phillies in the sixth round with the 211th pick overall. Being drafted in the top 10 rounds usually means it's time for the pro ranks for any player. Wright didn't shy away from expressing his opinion about being drafted and what ECU meant to him.

"I love East Carolina more than anything

and I'll always be a Pirate. Even if I did sign, I was still going to be a Pirate at heart and I would have been here for as many games as I could," said Wright. He also acknowledged that, "Every kid wants to get drafted, especially by a good organization, especially the Phillies. They're in the hunt for a championship every year and it was definitely a hard decision that weighed heavy on my heart."

Wright was in a good negotiating situation because he had the option to sign or return to Greenville for his last year of eligibility. Wright decided to return to ECU once negotiations hit a stand still.

"I wanted to finish up my degree (business management). That was a big thing for me," Wright said. "When things turned sour with the Phillies, I definitely knew it was a good idea to come back. Coach Godwin is a great coach and I feel like I could learn a lot more from him."

Following the first day of official practice, it was clear that he had made the right decision. Anyone who followed the situation could realize the Phillies were attempting to get a discount on the players they chose

> DECISION page A9



Senior catcher Zach Wright returns to ECU after being drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 2011 MLB Draft.

Football signs 18 for 2012



Head Football Coach Ruffin McNeill addresses the media at a National Signing Day press conference.

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

While basketball season is in full swing, many sports fans look to the first Wednesday in February to start their yearlong obsession with college football.

That first Wednesday brings with it National Signing Day, the day when high school players from around the country decide where they will play football for the next four or five years.

ECU Head Coach Ruffin McNeill is entering his third year as the leader of the Pirate ship with the best class so far. In all, the Pirates signed 18 players from nine different states.

"I'm very excited about the entire 2012 signing class and am confident we answered our immediate needs on the offensive line, in the secondary, and at the linebacker position," McNeill said. "I'm proud of the job our staff did. We had battles against some traditionally strong programs, and while you don't win all of those all the time, I was encouraged by the number of young men we had on our campus this year."

Without further ado, here are the top six

recruits committed to the Pirates for the 2012 season:

Lucas Thompson, DB, Winter Garden, Fla.

Without a doubt, the surprise of this class was nabbing Thompson. An Under-Armour All-American and member of the ESPNU 150, Thompson comes to ECU from the football-rich state of Florida. In his senior season at West Orange High School, he tallied 75 tackles, three for lost yardage, including two sacks. Helping the Pirates land Thompson was Thompson's head coach Chip Petree, who was a graduate assistant at ECU from 1990-92. Thompson is rated as a 4-star prospect by ESPN.com

Jabril Solomon, WR, Hemingway, S.C.

A receiver out of South Carolina, Solomon was a key contributor to the most successful four-year run in the history of Hemingway High School. During his junior and senior seasons, Hemingway went 25-2 over his final two seasons, which included an appearance in the South Carolina High School League Class A Division 1 state championship game. As a senior, Solomon caught 41 passes for 971 yards and 11 touchdowns. He is rated as a 3-star prospect by

ESPN.com.

DeAndre Scarbrough, LB, Beulaville, N.C.

A four-year starter for the East Duplin Panthers, Scarbrough played linebacker, defensive end and fullback, but projects as a linebacker at the college level. He has tallied 84 tackles and two sacks in his senior season, becoming the first East Duplin participant in the Shrine Bowl since 1998. Scarbrough is rated as a 3-star prospect by 247sports.com

Quataye Smyre, WR, Statesville, N.C.

A four-year letter winner and three-year starter for South Iredell, Smyre played both offense and defense in his high school days. As a senior, he totaled 500 yards receiving with 10 touchdowns, as well as 418 yards rushing with six scores. Rated as the 27th best prospect in the state of North Carolina and the 85th best athlete in the country by ESPN. Smyre is also rated a 3-star prospect by ESPN.com

Jonathan McLaughlin, OL, Mauldin, S.C.

A three-year starter at Mauldin High School, McLaughlin was the anchor of an offense that averaged 30 points per game, while topping 40 points four times during his senior season. McLaughlin, a 3-star prospect by ESPN.com, played in the North Carolina-South Carolina Shrine Bowl and was tabbed as the 28th-best prospect in South Carolina and the 92nd-best offensive tackle in the country by ESPN.com

Lance Ray, WR, Quincy, Fla.

Ray, a junior college transfer out of Northwest Miss JC, was a 2011 National Junior Athletic Association Honorable mention All-American after catching 37 catches for 704 yards and 12 touchdowns. Played briefly at Arkansas in 2010, where he led the Razorbacks in kickoff returns, kickoff return yards and average per return. In his career for the Razorbacks, Ray caught just one pass for six yards. Ray transferred to Northwest Miss JC after the 2010 season.

Completing the Pirates 2012 signing class was: Deshaun Amos, DB, 5-10, 180, Midlothian, Va. (Manchester)

Adonis Armstrong, DB, 5-10, 180, Clinton, Mass. (Hinds CC)

J.T. Boyd, OL, 6-4, 275, Fort Mill, S.C. (Nation Ford)

Colby Brown, DB, 5-10, 180, Augusta, Ga. (Highland CC)

Quandarius Crump, LB, 6-3, 210, Lexington, N.C. (Lexington)

Drayvon Fairley, LB, 6-3, 200, Red Springs, N.C. (Red Springs)

Keifer Neal, OL, 6-5, 310, Anaheim, Calif. (Golden West College)

Dayon Pratt, LB, 6-4, 190, Washington, D.C.

> FOOTBALL page A9

PIRATES continued from A8



Erin Straughn (23) drives in from the right wing against two Mustang defenders on Wednesday. DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

behind them.

The two teams traded the lead three times in the first eight-plus minutes before a Shamarr Bowden 3-pointer with 11:40 remaining in the first half gave the Pirates a 12-10 lead they would carry the rest of the game.

Despite starting the game 1-7 from behind the arc, ECU's shooters soon zoned in and hit five of their final 11 3-pointers in the first half, including a Corvonn Gaines trey that beat the halftime horn and sent the Pirates to the locker room with a 31-17 advantage.

The second half was all Pirates, as Sampson's explosion of productivity helped

ECU build a lead that got as large as 27 points.

SMU, which missed all 11 of its 3-point attempts on the evening, was led by Jalen Jones, whose 11 points made him the only Mustang in double figures.

The Mustangs played without their leading scorer and rebounder Robert Nyakundi, who missed the game with what Head Coach Matt Doherty called a day-to-day hamstring injury. The result was a 33-22 rebounding advantage for ECU, including an 11-4 advantage on the offensive glass.

Wednesday's win marks two straight for ECU, which entered the night as the only

C-USA team with less than two conference wins.

While the victory could signify that some of the Pirates' woes are behind them, Lebo was cautiously optimistic.

"We're just trying to build upon it," he said. "We don't care if we've won six in a row or lost six in a row. We're just trying to move forward. Hopefully it gives our kids some confidence."

He added, smirking, "But it's better than losing."

ECU looks to make it three in a row Saturday when they host Rice in a 5 p.m. tilt.

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

FOOTBALL

continued from A8

(Calvin Coolidge)
Ryan Revia, OL, 6-6, 303, Roanoke, Va. (Patrick Henry)
Reece Speight, LB, 6-1, 200, Wilson, N.C. (Beddingfield)

Godfrey Thompson, DB, 6-0, 205, Jackson, Miss. (Hinds CC)

Gabriel Woullard, LB, 6-3, 230, Valencia, Calif. (Pierce College)

While a recruiting class on paper does not solve the problems that faced the Pirates on the field over the last two seasons, what it does do is lay a foundation for future success, but not short term solutions.

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

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Deadline to apply for Rebel editor is 3/2/12. For a detailed job description e-mail moyey@ecu.edu. For an application visit www.ecu.edu/studentmedia.

DECISION continued from A8

from the college ranks, so coming back was most likely the smartest choice. Wright still has a chance to improve his skills and his draft stock for this June's draft, as he will be eligible once again.

Expectations for this year will obviously be higher, as Wright said, "Everybody is expecting more." He will have the support of Pirate Nation once again as he leads the

team into the 2012 season. "I can't wait to get out on the field on February 17," he said excitedly after the first practice.

The next two weeks will be a bit different, even for the veterans on the team like Wright, as Godwin is serving his two-week suspension as part of ECU's self-imposed response for a violation involving volunteer coaches

and housing benefits. But Wright doesn't feel like this will affect much on the field. "We're a well-oiled machine. I think it is going to be very smooth," he said.

Wright and the Pirates will begin their 2012 campaign on Feb. 17 at home against Milwaukee.

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

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