



BRIEFS

Journalism conference announces winners

Staff Reports

Over the weekend, the 26th annual Southeast Journalism Conference was held in Martin, Tenn.

The competition is open to the organization's member schools from eight states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee.

This year's competition included 433 entries from 41 eligible member schools.

Judges included 23 journalism professionals from newspapers, broadcast outlets and magazines across the country.

All entries are given ratings and judges are encouraged to provide comments and professional advice.

The East Carolinian placed second for College Newspaper and tenth for College Website.

This year's individual winners from The East Carolinian are Hunter Ingram, third place for Arts and Entertainment Writer, Angus McKellar, sixth place for Opinion Editorial Writer, Cameron Gupton, fourth place for Special Events Reporter, former employee Timothy Weaver, fourth place for News Editorial Artist/Illustrator, and Abbey Way, seventh place for College Journalist of the Year.

Campus 31 also won second place for College TV Station.

Greenville models crime fighting after bigger cities

Staff Reports

There are going to be some changes to the way the Greenville Police Department fights crime.

Recently, the department took its command staff to Raleigh and compared its systems.

Greenville city leaders and the department are now creating a five-year comprehensive plan to reduce crime, reported WNCN.

Since Greenville has a population of over 80,000 people, the department chose Raleigh for comparison.

Honors fraternity refurbishes clinic

Staff Reports

Honors fraternity Phi Eta Sigma recently refurbished and furnished the ECU Physicians pediatric hematology and oncology clinic.

An open house was held on Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Brody Outpatient Center Module F.

Phi Eta Sigma president Juliann Stalls and members of the fraternity were in attendance, along with Brody School of Medicine Vice Dean Nicholas Benson and other university leaders.

The fraternity redecorated and painted three patient rooms, donated three flat screens TVs, DVD players and mounting hardware, as well as ECU memorabilia and hundreds of dollars worth of toys.

Second man arrested in stabbing, shooting death

Staff Reports

A second arrest has been made in a Dec. 4 incident that left one teen dead and another injured at Pirates Cove apartments.

Carlton Waller, 18, of Winterville has been charged with assault with a deadly weapon for

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New conference official for ECU athletics

Adam Bunn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With the news surfacing last week that Memphis would be leaving Conference USA to join the Big East, C-USA Monday announced a move to stabilize their conference after a rash of departures.

C-USA and the Mountain West will form a new conference that will feature regional match-ups and could include up to 24 universities when all is said and done.

"We are very encouraged by the teamwork and energy exhibited among all the presidents and

chancellors involved in our recent discussions," ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said. "I'm in strong support of the commitment of the new conference to the academic success of the student athlete."

Another university president also expressed their optimism regarding the formation of the new conference.

"This is an exciting development that will stabilize the current conferences and create the first truly national conference with members in five time zones and television viewership from coast to coast," UNLV president Neal Smatresk said

in a statement. "This partnership brings together like-minded institutions to improve the integrity and stability of intercollegiate athletics."

The new format of the conference, which has not been fully ironed out yet, will consist of affiliation in the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), a football championship game that includes a semifinal round, championship basketball tournament and scheduling in divisions that will be similar to the current conference model.

The driving force behind this merger lies in the hopes of maybe being considered as an automatic

qualifying conference when the BCSS meets to evaluate its standing after next season. With the recent departures of Houston, UCF, SMU and Memphis to the Big East, C-USA felt it had to act fast to secure the viability of the conference.

"The statement from the Chancellors'/Presidents' meeting is encouraging and indicative that the merger is moving forward as expected," ECU Athletics Director Terry Holland said. "That is good news for all involved and we are

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MORGAN HOPLEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

An ECU bus hit two vehicles on Tenth Street around 11:40 Friday morning, sending five people to the hospital.

Bus collides with cars

Cameron Gupton
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The university is investigating the cause of a bus accident that occurred on Friday at the intersection of Tenth and Maple streets.

According to Wood Davidson, the director of ECU Transit, the accident involved the 501 Pirates Cove bus and two other vehicles and occurred shortly before noon.

"The driver of the bus is a student employee," said Davidson. "An investigation by our operations and safety units is under way and the employee will be subject to our personnel policies as appropriate based on the findings of the investigation."

Greenville Police also investigated the accident and determined that a vehicle had come to a stop on 10th St. to make a right turn, while two other vehicles also came to a stop behind it. The ECU bus rear-ended one of the vehicles, which caused that vehicle to rear-end

another.

Five passengers in the vehicles were sent to Vidant Health Center, while the eight passengers on the bus sustained no injuries.

Police stated that the bus driver was reportedly looking in the rearview mirror and then saw the vehicles, but was unable to come to a stop in time to avoid the accident. The driver has been charged with failure to decrease speed as necessary to avoid a collision.

"I haven't gotten the police report yet, so I don't know what narrative the police has put on his," said Davidson about the order of events in the accident.

The driver has been removed, pending the ongoing investigation by the university, according to Davidson.

Davidson also stated that the length of the investigation is currently undetermined. "There is really no set timeline. We basically follow our procedures, col-

> BUS page A2

Facebook places ban on fake names

Jamie Harper
STAFF WRITER

Facebook's policy states that standard accounts on Facebook are reserved for real users only, using their real names.

The policy, which was originally established in 2004 when Facebook was created, requires users to provide accurate information, including their real name. Currently, Facebook has automated systems that watch out for scammers and spammers and employs policy enforcement to attempt to assure the 845 million active users on Facebook are following the terms and policy.

The most recent update occurred on April 16, 2011 and states that fictional names are permitted for business pages only. Under Facebook's terms section, "Registration and Account Security," it states, "Facebook users provide their real names and information."

But many students use nicknames on their Facebook profile. "I have some people (that do this) on my friend list. I use my full name though. They ask for your full first and last name, and a nickname isn't really your real name," said Casey Niewenkous, a junior business management major.

Facebook policy explains that by requiring a user's real name, it assures accountability, especially for comments that are posted. Additionally, accurate demographic information can contribute to effective targeted advertising.

"Maybe people change their name

> FACEBOOK page A2

Some online courses create issues for students

Melanie Jock
STAFF WRITER

Although some students enjoy the convenience of online courses and not meeting face-to-face with their instructors, others find these classes to be problematic.

Some instructors require students to do more work in online courses than they would in face-to-face instruction in order to make-up for the lack of in person interaction. Students are often required to do more discussion board postings, frequent paper submissions, more online coursework, lengthy readings and proctored exams.

Public health first-year graduate student Michaela Penix said the workload is different than traditional courses. "It's more tedious than face-to-face classes and there's a lot more (paper) writing," said Penix.

The responsibility that comes with online courses can be challenging for some students to handle.

"ECU online courses are very much structured like their regular campus courses," said John Connelly,

Associate Director of the Division of Continuing Studies. "It's the same faculty teaching the same course, same syllabus, same timeline."

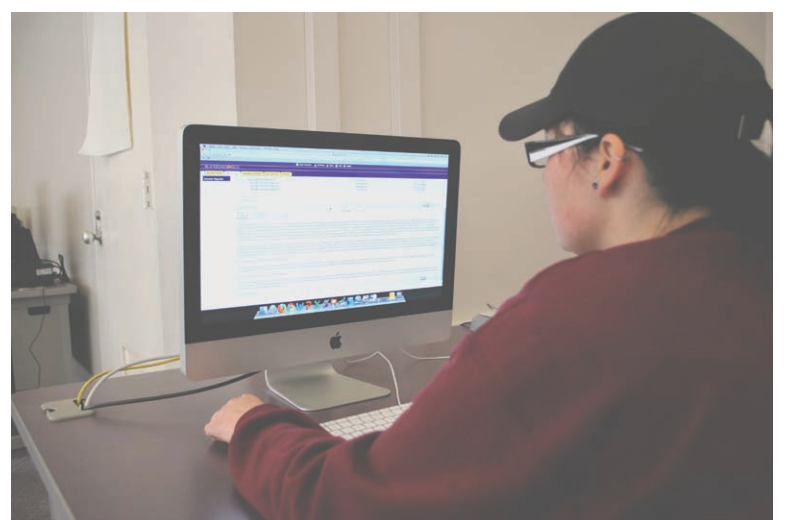
Lynda Hambourger, a distance education academic advisor at North Carolina State University, said that online classes are a success so far and the numbers continue to grow each year, and she hears few complaints.

"Sixty-five percent of people taking (online) classes are registered on campus," said Hambourger. "We have students virtually in all continents taking online classes."

Connelly said he has seen similar positive feedback from students. "What we're finding, though, with online education, the Student Opinion of Instruction Survey (SOIS) results show that the satisfaction results are as good, or better, than campus courses," said Connelly. "So the students overwhelmingly say they're satisfied with online courses."

For media writing instructor Barbara Bullington, getting online students to interact with one another is the biggest challenge she sees.

"On campus, it is easy to put



MORGAN HOPLEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Senior marketing and management major Kayla Kostarelos checks her Blackboard for updates on her online courses.

students in groups and allow them to feel like part of the class," said Bullington. "I tried using Twitter and discussion board to promote a sense of class, instead of the individual student."

Connelly said the challenge of

bridging the teacher-student communication gap is a problem that programs like Starfish try to fix. Starfish is a program teachers use

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INSIDE

OPINION

Check out Opinion for Ben Cochran's view on some possible false advertising from ECU. **A3**

LIFESTYLES

Going on a date to the movies tonight? Turn to Lifestyles to read Hunter Ingram's review of 'The Vow.' **A4**

SPORTS

Women's hoops ended a lengthy losing streak on Sunday. Turn to Sports to read about the Lady Pirates' big win. **A6**

WEATHER

56°F / 37°F

Mostly cloudy and passing showers



GRAPHICS FROM ENTHROPIA.COM

ONLINE



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

BRIEFS CONT.

the incident, which occurred during a party, reported The Daily Reflector.

It is believed that Waller stabbed 18-year-old Rayshawn Nobles, also of Winterville.

The stabbing took place during the same incident that led to the shooting death of ECU student Deme-trius Boone.

Waller was jailed under a \$50,000 bond and police suspect he is affiliated with the Crips street gang.

'The Toe Tactic' to play at Museum of Art

Staff Reports

Tonight from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers will be screening "The Toe Tactic" at the Greenville Museum of Art.

The film brings to life the layered world of reality and imagination through director Emily Hubley's hand-drawn animation and live action.

Hubley will be at the screening to discuss her work. The Greenville Museum of Art is located on Evans St.

FACEBOOK continued from A1



Facebook now requires users to only use their first and last names.

so other people they don't want to find them, can't. It could also be because they are trying to protect themselves," said Haley Nixon, a freshmen elementary education major.

The terms section also states that Facebook has the right to terminate any users account if they do not adhere to the rules and regulations stated. On this page of Facebook, it states, "If you violate the letter or spirit of this Statement, or otherwise create risk or possible legal exposure for us, we can stop providing all or part of Facebook to you. We will notify you by email or at the next time you attempt to access your account."

Potential employers commonly review applicants' Facebooks before continuing the interview or hiring process. "I know for a fact that employers check them. For some human resources, it is their job to look online and on Facebook to get more information. They definitely consider that sort of stuff," said Todd Fraley, associate

professor and internship coordinator for the School of Communication. "My advice would always be, if there is a question, just don't post it," said Fraley.

LinkedIn is a commonly used professional network for students to use in order to connect with professionals or companies in their industry of interest. LinkedIn has the option to connect users' Facebook and Twitter to their account. "It may be better if students keep those separate. You can connect professionally on LinkedIn, but sometimes it is not as professional to connect on Facebook," said Fraley.

When Facebook started, an email address with an ".edu" was required to be a user. When this requirement was part of being a user of Facebook, there was an easier way to ensure users were real people, and therefore, a real social network of only college students was established.

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

CONFERENCE continued from A1

looking forward to the continuing discussions."

The new conference will combine the remnants of the Mountain West, which includes UNLV, New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado State, Nevada, Fresno State, Air Force and Hawaii in football only, with the leftovers from C-USA, which includes Southern Miss, Tulsa, Marshall, Rice, UTEP, UAB, Tulane and East Carolina.

The newly-formed conference may begin play as soon as 2013-14 season, with the presidents and chancellors holding follow-up meetings over the next six months to iron out all the systematic details for operating the new "super" conference.

ECU has been a football member of C-USA since 1997, and later joined in all sports in 2001.

C-USA was established in

1995 with the merger of the Metro Conference and the Great Midwest Conference and fielded 12 football programs in 1996. The Mountain West formed in 1999 and is currently the youngest member of the Football Bowl Subdivision.

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

COURSES continued from A1

to let students know how they are doing in their class by sending an email and notifications on Blackboard. It also allows students and teachers to interact one-on-one to discuss problems with class.

"That's the biggest thing we work on — community in online classes," said Connelly. "We want them to feel connected with ECU and the instructor of the class."

Connelly said this is a problem he's seen as well. "I think there's a learning curve involved, especially for traditional college-aged students, because there are so many things vying for their time," he said. "So it's hard when you have this online course that you have to make yourself go after."

Senior construction management major Cosby McKenzie said the ability to take his finance class online and at his convenience was something he enjoyed. "I like online classes better," said McKenzie. "I can do them on my own time."

A concern some students voiced was the requirement of taking tests at a designated proctoring center. If a teacher requires proctored exams, a student must make an appointment at the proctoring center to ensure an honest and safe submission of the test.

Both McKenzie and Penix said this was their only issue in taking online courses. "My only complaint is the proctored exams," said Penix. She said she did not like the hassle of having to make an appointment and then travel to the center.

With budgets shrinking each year, some classes have

changed to only one section of the class in online format, which means a student may have to take an online class for graduation.

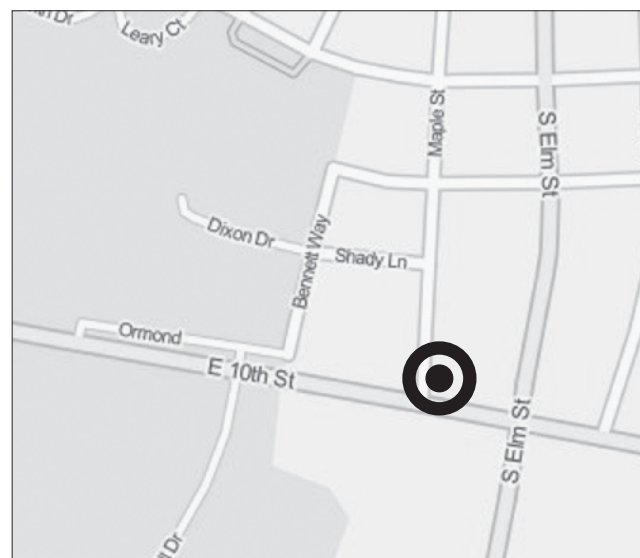
"There's a press of, 'How do we do enough of everything?'" said Connelly. "So, sometimes that means offering fewer sections than the department may have been able to in the past, when they may have had sufficient faculty and funding."

According to the distance education departments web-

site, compared with other schools in the state, ECU has been the leader in distance education for 60 years. It was also one of the first schools in the nation to develop and offer degree programs through online courses. The university is one of the 16 public institutions in the state to offer online classes.

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

BUS continued from A1



The accident happened at the corner of Maple and Tenth streets.

lect evidence, look at police reports and look at photos," said Davidson.

Sophomore business and Spanish double major Sofia Bracamonte did not even hear about the wreck until Monday.

"I'm really surprised,"

said Bracamonte. "They take it a little fast sometimes, but I do feel pretty safe."

Davidson could not say whether this was the first time that particular driver had been in an accident, as he could not disclose information from drivers' personnel

records.

"I don't think it's a reflection on transit, but on the driver," said junior communication major Karin Reed.

Reed saw the accident as she was driving down 10th St. on Friday. "You just don't want something like that to happen again," said Reed.

Since July 1, 2011, the service has driven 455,048 miles and has only had 12 "preventable" collisions. Nine of the 12 collisions resulted in no damage or damage that was under \$500.

According to Davidson, many of the accidents were as minor as a mirror strike.

Typically, the service goes 40,000 miles between "preventable" accidents. There are 130 student drivers who must undergo 81.5 hours of training and instruction in order to operate a vehicle. This training ranges from classroom to field experience and begins with skill work and actual driving.

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

your advertisement could be here

...but it's not

Take advantage of quality advertising to thousands of students!

contact ads@theeastcarolinian.com

Interested in working for TEC?

The East Carolinian will hold its spring hiring fair on Thursday, February 23rd in TEC's newsroom, located in the Self Help Building (downtown on the corner of 3rd and Evans Streets), suite 100F.

We will be hiring:

Staff Writers
Cartoonists
Photographers
Copy Editors
Layout Designers

The hiring fair will be from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Please email Micah Lockhart at publiceditor@theeastcarolinian if you have any questions.

The East Carolinian

Alexander Paul
INSTITUTE OF HAIR DESIGN
A REDKEN 5TH AVENUE SCHOOL

\$8 Men's Cuts
\$12 Women's Cuts

\$30 Color & Style
\$30 Partial Highlight & Style

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We are hiring!

The East Carolinian is accepting applications for the following positions:

Cartoonists

Email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com for more information

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.

You are truly who you are when no one is looking. You are what you rant about when the other person doesn't know. Scary how ugly you are, no?

Dear ECU Parking, HA-HA, I have finally found a secret parking spot where you cannot give my sexy truck a ticket. Na-na-na boo-boo, stick your tickets in doo-doo.

I'll be studying for an organic chemistry test on Valentine's Day. Joyner, will you be my Valentine?

I think that Skateboarding Banana-Man is full of POTassium.

To the professor with a wife and two kids, stop sleeping with your students.

When I was your age, I was raising Pokémon, not babies.

My dream Valentine's Day date would include bong rips, sushi and sex.

No lab because of Valentine's Day? That's why we can't have a woman president.

Can the iDrive guys go get me a case on their way to picking me up for an extra fee?

Sorry, guy that I farted on last night while dancing on at Halfway. It just slipped.

I warned you about the stairs bro! I told you, dog! I told you man. I TOLD you about the stairs!

I think everyone wants to find out what Scotty McCreery's alcohol tolerance is ... and everybody wants to be the one to post that Facebook picture.

I miss Michael Scott.

If she doesn't know who Cory and Topanga are, she's too young for you bro!

I'm ready for some more vulgar rants. Like how you gave someone crabs, or don't shave your crotch in the winter ... Stuff like that.

Too bad ECU isn't playing UNC in basketball this year. We might have a chance if Zeller keeps scoring for the wrong team.

If you didn't want the weird kid to tag along, you shouldn't have talked about your plans in front of him.

April 20th is on a Friday this year!

To the punch-happy ginger hater, stop being jealous of us and our sweet freckles. #redhairdontcare

GO TO HELL CAROLINA!

For all those Pirate fans who cheered for UNC to win: Don't you know what UNC students say about ECU? Yeah, you shouldn't be cheering for them in any sport.

Feeny, Fe Fe Fe Feeny!

So, am I not cool because I don't stand in front of Rowl when its time to switch classes?

Dear NCAA: Please get involved with this conference realignment junk, it's a hot mess. Sincerely, Everyone at ECU.

I spent the weekend in Raleigh at NC State and heard sirens almost 24/7 and even got to see a drug bust... and they criticize Greenville?

Saw a fat girl eating Girl Scout cookies. I know one person who gave up on their resolution.

C-USA and Mountain West to dissolve and form new conference in 2013, sources say it'll be called the "Big Dumpster."



MADALYN MCCLEOD JOHNSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Teachers wanted: true or false?



Ben Cochran
OPINION COLUMNIST
@Ben_Cochran

Senior Nursing Major

For the life of me, I cannot remember a time when people have been more gullible. I'm specifically referring to Bud Light Platinum, which hit the shelves on Jan. 30. People are singing its praises as if it were the savior of light beer.

For the record, it's essentially the same product as Bud Ice. Uncle Adolphus Busch may have pulled the wool over everyone else's eyes, but I will not be bamboozled so easily. Nevertheless, my main problem with it is its name. You can't call it "platinum" if it comes in a cobalt blue bottle. Platinum and cobalt are completely different metals, and this whole marketing charade smacks of false advertising.

About the only thing it's good for is taking the edge off my anger when I consider another, more serious form of what seems like false advertising that is going on right here at ECU. We have a wonderful College of Education; we really do. It continually churns out more education professionals than any other institution in the state. Additionally, ECU graduates have the highest employment rate in North Carolina

schools. ECU is ranked second in the nation for total number of alumni to recently achieve their National Board Certification. That is a huge deal.

The problem, however, is with a banner on ECU's website proclaiming, "North Carolina needs teachers," with the emphasis on "needs." The College of Education's website projects that North Carolina will need 10,000 teachers per year for the next 10 years.

While this forecast may be accurate, it is in no way an indication of how the state will act to meet that demand. As such, this statement shouldn't be used as a tool to recruit education majors; it should be sent as a means to strongly advise our state's leaders.

North Carolina actually has a pretty decent crop of current teachers. In fact, one out of every five teachers has his or her National Board Certification, a figure that leads the nation. For a state that "needs" teachers, we seem to be doing about as well as Charlie Sheen in an awesome contest, i.e. winning.

Nevertheless, you would think that our leaders would applaud our highly-touted teachers by rewarding them with commensurately touted pay. In truth, North Carolina starts teachers out at around \$15.85 an hour, which is what my stripper friends make when they are about halfway through a three-minute song. If we truly "needed" teachers, we would be com-

pensating them a little bit better than this.

Let us be practical: "need" should only be defined by numbers that support such a claim. In a report released by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, public schools have cut more than 8 percent of their staff since 2008, with every year since then seeing a continuing downward trend due to continuous budget cuts.

Frequently, when I'm assessing my current stock of beer and I determine that I need 10,000 more Bud Light Platinums for the weekend because I'm a boss like that, the first thing I do is go and pour out 800 of the ones currently in the fridge. That's how you know I'm serious about my need; I act in ways that are incongruent with my statements.

So please, ECU, do not try to tell me that North Carolina "needs" teachers when it is clear that we do not. Feel free to submit your speculations to our politicians, but do not, under any circumstances, attempt to hood-wink me with your flighty figures of need and banners of deception, lest I suspect you as the culprit behind the Bud Light Platinum misnomer as well.

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Great people, great books



Sidney Davis
OPINION COLUMNIST
@FearLoathingTEC

Sophomore English Major

The Victorian satirist Thomas Carlyle once wrote, "What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books." So with the current trends in reading being what they are, what will become of our generation's university education?

Each semester, a course is offered in the "Great Books," with professors from a wide variety of departments staffing the program. Any student of English, the humanities or theater would be amiss not to take a class on Shakespeare, while everything from the Bible and the Qur'an to Marx and Freud are taught here for any interested students of just about any major.

All of these classes are enlightening, but in the end, there just aren't enough being offered or enough time, for even an English major, to be guided through the entire Western canon by a professor. And being "well-read" on any given subject can be outright unrewarding too, at times. If you can name every character out of Harry Potter or explain the intricacies of vampire-werewolf love triangles, you are probably better prepared for daily small-talk concerning books than if you've read the "Iliad," the "Aeniad," or the "Odyssey."

Our society has moved away from such a canon and we are much the poorer for having done so. Is it pretentious to cling to the works that stand at the foundation of our entire culture? To the contrary, it would be silly to humor everything that qualifies as a bestseller, even if these books do fill the gap in which great works of literature used to provide: a common language.

In generations prior, readers

had many foundational texts in common, and this provided a kind of intellectually stimulating communication that guided education not just in the classroom, but throughout life. It is the merit of the works that we read and share together that is the root of what is the matter with education today. What separates a university from a vocational school is more cultural than it is technical.

At the end of the day, it is not elitist to say that self-improvement is better achieved through a pursuit of knowledge than by the purchase of a self-help book. Society has a way of readily packaging these high out-of-reach things on low shelves, giving easy answers to impossible questions, and this should be viewed skeptically, and with disdain.

Better romance, by far, is to be found in the pages of "Anne Karenina" than in this week's issue of Cosmo, as is true for the works of Proust, Goethe and Shakespeare. You are better off having read the Bible itself, God-fearing or godless, than letting it be quoted to you verse by verse out of context, and better off investigating the works of important men and women through their own words, than by their portrayals in popular culture or in the media.

Of course, culture is not dead. The discussions in question still take place, and the pursuit is still as possible today for any student, or, for that matter, any self-educating person with a library card and a bit of literacy. With Project Gutenberg (almost all of the classics available for free, online, since the end of their copyrights) and the abundance of eBook devices, it is almost inexcusable not to follow in this fine tradition now that it has become so convenient. All you need to know is where to look, and sometimes just wandering through the stacks at Joyner is enough to begin one's actual education.

This writer can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Scribbles to the Captain

The East Carolinian welcomes letters or comments from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number and must be signed (except those sent by email). Letters selected for publication may be edited and may be republished in any format. All letters submitted become the property of The East Carolinian. Questions? Please call 252-737-2999 or email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Dear Editor,

First, stellar article, Angus!

Second, I am in full agreement regarding students and Greenville. We tend to live in a bubble. There is ECU, and then there is Greenville. The students could tell you a bunch about the ECU community, but little about Greenville as a whole.

There needs to be more integration, more community involvement. I want to see more places like the Topsy Teapot, Sojourners, and other local businesses in Greenville, that are a good example of the integration of the ECU and Greenville communities. The students need to experience a social revolution. If we change our mindset, we can make Greenville thrive.

And a socialist bookstore - wouldn't that be nice. I have to get my radical material online if I am to get it at all in Greenville. A wonderful example of the cafe/bookstore I have in mind is the Red and Black Cafe in Portland.

Also the Bolerium bookstore in San Francisco.

Something also worth knowing: residents of Greenville are not happy with the way students are treating it. There have been a ton of complaints from residents at public forums regarding trash and taking care of the property. This is more directed at the Fraternities, but it really depends on who owns the property.

We students need to integrate ourselves more within the community. We can potentially help revitalize the economy of this city. If we get more involved, and outside of the ECU bubble, residents will look more positively on us and Greenville will experience many more beneficial effects.

Andrew Ray Gorman
ECU student

Find the original article in the Jan. 26, 2012 edition of *The East Carolinian*. Look for part two of "What's the matter with Greenville?" next week.

POLL RESULTS

What is your preferred housing option?

On Campus 15%
Off Campus House 32%
Off Campus Apartment 53%

WEB POLL

Do you think the new athletic conference will benefit ECU?

Vote online at theeastcarolinian.com

STAFF INFORMATION

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Serving ECU since 1925, *The East Carolinian* is an independent, student-run publication that prints 9,000 copies every Tuesday and Thursday during the regular academic year and 5,000 on Wednesdays during the summer. "Our View" is the opinion of the editorial board and is written by editorial board members. *The East Carolinian* welcomes letters to the editor which are limited to 250 words (which may be edited for decency or brevity). We reserve the right to edit or reject letters and all letters must be signed and include a telephone number. Letters may be sent via e-mail to editor@theeastcarolinian.com or to *The East Carolinian*, Self Help Building, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4353. Call 252-328-9238 for more information. One copy of *The East Carolinian* is free, each additional copy is \$1.

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COOKING COLUMN

Serving up Valentine's



Allison Meyers
COLUMNIST

Are you hungry right now? If so, close

the paper, grab a snack and come back later. We're going to talk about food. So hungry people, don't be a hero. We'll see you later.

I don't know about you, but I love to eat. Man, do I love it. Seriously, whoever invented bread could get it. And cheese? Forget it. I love cooking too. Sometimes I read cookbooks for fun. And for me, things get real in my kitchen. Once, I broke two spatulas in one day in a cooking frenzy, the likes of which are rarely seen outside reality TV. So, if you keep visiting my column, you too will learn how to destroy cooking equipment, make friends and influence people. Because y'all, have you ever been anywhere remotely fun that didn't include food or drinks? And we're here to have fun, so let's get cooking.

Valentine's Day ... it approaches. Ladies, have the girls over for dinner and wine. Dudes, have your girl over for dinner and wine (let your roommates be the suckers who go out and brave the crowds for a cut-rate meal at Chili's). Question not even asked and answered! See why you come to me for advice? Here's what's going to happen: you're going to have dinner in the oven when your guest(s) arrive. You'll put on music, you'll open the wine (or if you're underage, something else ... amirite?!). Festivities — making out or chilling out, the music sets the tone — commence. A seductive smell begins to waft from the kitchen, or I guess the toaster oven on the other side of the dorm room. All bets are off at this point and the night begins.

Try this recipe for Baked Stuffed Portabella Mushrooms and a weird, but cool, Berry Gratin. These are easy dishes that sound fancy, but require very little work. Serve your mushrooms with some salad from the salad bar at the grocery store.

Baked Stuffed Portabella Mushrooms

Recipe adapted from Glamour.com

1 portabella mushroom cap (just break the stem off) per person
Portabellas are the big, dark brown mushrooms. Usually, you can get just the caps in a little package in the produce department.

Olive oil or cooking spray
Salt and pepper
¼ cup ricotta cheese per person
½ cup chopped fresh spinach per person
1 tablespoon parmesan cheese per person
2-3 tablespoons marinara sauce (from a jar) per person

Preheat oven to 450. Clean mushrooms by wiping them off with a slightly damp paper towel or clean rag. Line a cookie sheet (or any other oven-safe pan you have) with foil and then spray with cooking spray or rub with oil. The foil is there because the only thing sexier than a man who does dishes is a man who knows how to use them and not even get them dirty. Put your mushrooms on the pan gill side up, sprinkle with salt and pepper (just a little!), and rub the insides and outsides lightly with olive oil. Roast them in the oven for about 15 minutes, or until tender. Meanwhile, mix together your ricotta cheese and spinach. Feel free to season this with whatever sounds enticing to you. This isn't the evening for garlic, however. But a little red pepper flake packet that you have left over from pizza night, or a sprinkle of fresh or dried oregano, would be nice.

> COOKING page A5

'The Vow': No Notebook



CONTRIBUTED

'The Vow' opened in first place at the box office this weekend making over \$41 million. However, it fell short of 'The Notebook'-inspired expectations.



Hunter Ingram
COLUMNIST

Grade: C

Since its first trailer premiered, touting Nicholas Sparks alums Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum, "The Vow" has no doubt driven romance fiends crazy with Valentine's Day-induced excitement. But the big question is whether or not this particular vow lives up to the Sparks films that it so desperately wants to be coupled with. And in simple terms, the answer to that very question is not exactly positive.

But that doesn't mean "The Vow" doesn't have redeeming qualities, because it does. The problem is that it just doesn't know how to harness the opportunities that are bestowed upon a movie like this (meaning good actors, epic love and a nice budget to boot).

Telling the story of a "once-in-a-lifetime" love, "The Vow" follows Leo (Tatum) as he tries to remind his wife Paige (McAdams) why they fell so deeply in love after a car accident claims all her memories of their life together. The set-up is the epitome of a romantic drama, and that's where

the film loses it way.

It forgets that it still needs to be unique and fresh. While this film is not a Sparks creation, it does use its knowledge of what Sparks' fans want in order to formulate something that offers up many of the clichés of every romantic film (wedding scenes, cute skinny-dipping, a man standing in the rain for no apparent reason and enough "I love yous" to warm even the Grinch's heart). And while it does have its own plot, these clichés only serve to follow a pattern that doesn't give the story room to breathe.

I have never had a problem with romantic dramas. When a good film comes along (i.e. "The Notebook"), it has the power to change the way people see the genre and that isn't a bad thing. But "The Vow" doesn't change anything. Like "The Twilight Saga," it doesn't use its huge fan base and well-known actors, all of which have varying levels of acting ability, to create something new — just more of the same.

Speaking of the actors, McAdams and Tatum are pretty together. Is it bad that that's all I can say about their relationship? Yes, they have passionate scenes and they have swoon-worthy moments, but those don't succeed on the basis of their chemistry. These scenes succeed (albeit thinly) on the framing of this film as a portrait of a perfect love. Love doesn't have to be perfect to seem epic, but in this world, it

apparently does because they never seem to fight before the accident. And while that is great and what everyone hopes for, it doesn't provide a basis of reality, but instead, a fairy tale.

I adore McAdams — from her days sluttin' it up as Regina George to her strolls through Paris in the recent "Midnight in Paris" — but she deserves better than this. Her character is also a prime example of one of the film's other flaws — its lack of character development. With this quality almost completely absent, the audience is just supposed to buy that Paige is a conservative law student turned tortured artist. We need some indication that this is plausible besides the fact that she has an art studio and daddy issues.

Same goes for Jessica Lange, who plays Paige's high-society mother. If Lange's recent award-winning turn on "American Horror Story" has taught us anything, it's that she can knock a performance out of the park. But here, she is given no worthy material, nor the chance to grow as a character. Apart from one scene that gives us a glimpse of her ability, Lange is reduced to a quiet, yet tightly wound mother. I want the demon spawn-rearing, mother-from-hell, "AHS" Lange, who can turn a five-minute monologue about death into a moving soliloquy.

But, like was stated earlier, "The Vow" has a few redeeming qualities, the biggest one being its ability to

muster any shred of sympathy for Tatum from this particular critic. Apart from the guilty pleasure of mine that is "She's the Man," Tatum and his acting abilities have never been my cup of tea. But this film saw him step up a little and bring something to the role, which is better than his usual in my opinion.

Plus, the fact the film is based on a true story, something that the producers never let you forget, does give "The Vow" an incredibly moving concept at its core. The problem is that it never highlights this realistic take, forgoing it to follow the conventions that have made movies like this so popular in the past. Had this been a lower budget film, with less emphasis on its marketability to romantics, the real story could have shined through a little better.

While the film does have its flaws, it will be loved by fans of Sparks and his pantheon of romantic books-to-movies, and that's ok. This film is for those fans and there is no reason why they shouldn't get a sappy romance to coat their Valentine's Day with. But its about time audiences speak up for change in this genre. These fans deserve fresh and original films to fall in love with, not the same film with interchangeable actors. And sadly, that change does not come with "The Vow."

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

Former Pirate publishes short story collection



CONTRIBUTED

Alumnus Robb Todd has turned his once journalistic focus towards creative writing in "Steal Me For Your Stories."

Sara Davis
STAFF WRITER

Robb Todd has been on quite a journey since he graduated from ECU in 1994. These days, he spends his time wandering through New York City and looking for all kinds of inspiration on its streets and in subway cars. He uses the city's influences to pen short, fictional stories. His first collection of short stories entitled, "Steal Me For Your Stories," was recently published.

Todd spent his years at ECU as a communication major and the sports editor for The East Carolinian. Todd was originally interested in sports reporting on television. This changed when an English professor, who was also the editor of The East

Carolinian, suggested to Todd that he write for the paper's sports section. Todd listened, and after only one semester, he had become the sports editor.

"I had always enjoyed sports and writing, but I had never thought about (doing that) before. It was nice to have a job and enjoy what I was doing," Todd said. His love of reading and writing came from going through old Sports Illustrated magazines and articles by Tom Wolfe in Esquire.

Todd stated that his strongest memories from school come from producing the paper. During his time with the paper, he covered football games and even got the opportunity to go to Seattle to cover a game. Todd's experience at The

East Carolinian even led to a job offer right after graduation.

He began working in North Carolina with the Jacksonville Daily News. Todd said, "I felt like sports gave me a broad palate to work with. In sports, you can address racism, sexism and any other social issues."

After a few years, he got out of sports journalism and followed jobs all across the country. He has worked in Hawaii, Texas and NYC. He even worked for the New York Daily News and CBS News in NYC before getting out of the journalism career.

He currently works at Sling Media, a video provider company, which allows him to dedicate more time to his fiction writing. "Journalism and writing a book are two different things. With this new job,

I am able to refocus my time on my stories," Todd said.

Gordon Lish, a writer, editor and teacher, mentored Todd. Lish helped him remove the journalism tactics from his brain. "Studying with Lish allowed me to do this book. Mystery works well with fiction and helps to move the story. In journalism, you have to have all the facts," said Todd.

He was drawn to fiction after Dave Eggers wrote the book, "What Is the What." "It opened my eyes to the idea that art is a powerful social force that helps people see the world differently," Todd stated. "Even if it's on a more personal level, like relationships or other struggles."

Eggers' book really influenced Todd's own writing. "That's what I gravitate to in fiction — someone presenting the world to me; the same world I see daily — in a different way than I interpret it," said Todd.

His new collection of short stories contains Todd's works from the past few years. "The stories work together to paint a larger picture and people get different things from it when they read it," he said. The book contains stories with a mixture of topics, including relationships.

Todd hopes that people are still reading fictional stories and have a desire to do so. "I never read a lot of fiction in college," Todd noted, "and people seem to want to read and write non-fiction more today." He believes that these stories might make a difference and matter in some way to the right people.

"Steal Me For Your Stories," is now available for purchase on Amazon. It comes straight from the mind of a former Pirate, who has been fascinated with his surroundings in NYC.

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

Valentine's Day: Romance or No Chance?



CONTRIBUTED

Leila Falls
STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day brings mixed feelings for the lovebirds and the lonely hearts. Over the past month, nearly every store has been stocked with heart-shaped chocolates, perfectly bloomed roses, Hallmark cards, and plush animals clutching phrases like "Be mine."

The origin of the holiday is, as Forrest Gump would say, "like a box of chocolates," in that it has assorted roots.

"The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred," according to History.com. The first Valentine, from the third century, married couples in secret when the emperor banned marriages after proclaiming that young men without a sweetheart were better for the army. The second Valentine helped Christians run away from the persecution in Roman prisons, while the third is credited with the first valentine card (signed "From your Valentine"), given to his darling, the prison keeper's daughter, before he was put to death.

"Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and — most importantly — romantic figure," states History.com.

An alternate version at the heart of the holiday is linked to the fertility festival on Feb. 15, known as Lupercalia. It was rumored that the Catholic Church tried to minimize the pagan honoring of agriculture god Faunus (and founders Romulus and Remus) by announcing the commemorative St. Valentine's Day celebration during

the same time, according to History.com. Pieces of goat hide were doused in blood and used to lightly slap women to help fertility, and women's names were drawn from a vase to match them up with eligible bachelors.

Many people want to experience that ultimate romance envisioned by Shakespeare's characters, Romeo and Juliet, with all of the enthusiasm and passion — minus the deaths. But even that ideal star-crossed loving was full of the unexpected. "Romeo has a lot of ideas about love and when he kisses (Juliet), she says, 'you kiss by the book.' That could mean it was obvious he'd never kissed or it was a textbook kiss," said English Professor David Wilson-Okamura, who pointed out the not-so-perfect and bitter side of love through Shakespeare's sonnets.

"Most sonnets are not happy. It's like, 'why do I love you' (or 'you're horrible,'" said Wilson-Okamura, referring to the rich text in Shakespeare's "Sonnet 119" which conveys disappointment.

No chance for romance topics such as making excuses for your sweetheart, who is into someone else and decides to reject you, and combined lies are common for the poetic style. Even the touchy subject of "I know you're with my best friend" is described in Shakespeare's "Sonnet 144."

"It's very hard to write happy sonnets and not make them boring," said Wilson-Okamura. "But when it's done, it's marvelous."

English poet Edmund Spenser could be considered the forefather of the roses-are-red-violets-are-blue spiel with this line, "She bath'd with roses red/ and violets blew/ And all the sweetest flowers/

that in the forest grew."

The Christian vs. Pagan battle of ideals continued even after Pope Galsius of the fifth century announced Feb. 14th as St. Valentine's Day. But eventually, there was a collective agreement of the focus on love due to the start of spring.

"There's something about springtime and a new season when birds mate and some pair off permanently (turtle doves), that people living close to nature notice," said Wilson-Okamura, who believes there is a universal

fear of being alone.

As 14th century British poet Chaucer described in his "Parliament of Fowls," "For this was on Saint Valentine's Day/ When every fowl cometh to choose her mate." There is a quest for companionship, which may be the source for the endearing term for a couple of lovebirds.

No matter what the origin, it's undeniable that emotions are fragile and wallets break during this expressive holiday celebrated in Mexico, the United King-

dom, France, Australia, Canada and the United States. The day takes only second place to Christmas in holiday cards, with approximately 150 million sold each year, according to History.com.

"All of these holidays are inflated by money, but since it's really old, there's got to be something in February about coming back alive," laughed Wilson-Okamura at the holiday-hype.

"But Dante said that love is what causes the sun and other stars to turn."

Whether blissfully in love with someone special or just involved in chocolate bliss, bitter or sweet, Valentine's Day is what one makes of it. Put that on a Hallmark card.

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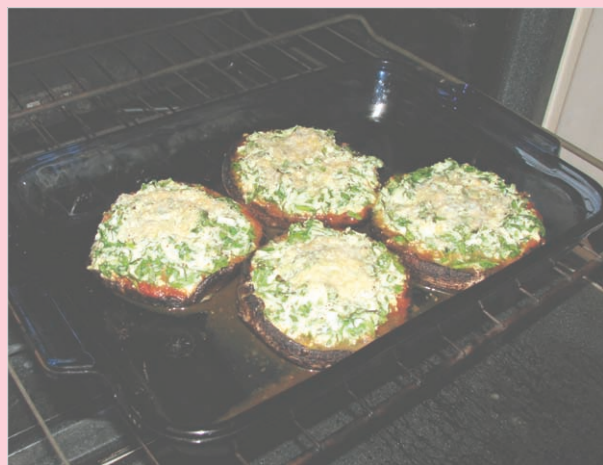
COOKING continued from A4

Pour away any liquid that has formed in your mushrooms. Add marinara sauce to the bottom of your mushroom cup, then spoon in the cheese mixture. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over the top. Bake about 10 more minutes. Serve with a little extra marinara for flair.

Berry Gratin (pronounced grah-tan)
Recipe adapted from smittenkitchen.com
1 pint of berries (sliced strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, etc)
1 pint sour cream (or greek yogurt, plain or vanilla)
1 cup brown sugar

Preheat the oven to Broil. You'll use a pie plate or other oven-safe baking dish. Layer the berries on the bottom, spread the sour cream over the top and sprinkle the sugar evenly across the top. Put the dish under the broiler and DON'T WALK AWAY. In less than five minutes you'll have a melty and dark brown top. It will be ugly. This is good. The uglier it is, the more your date/friends will love how good it tastes.

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



ERIKA KHALIL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Baked Stuffed Portabella Mushrooms hot out of the oven.



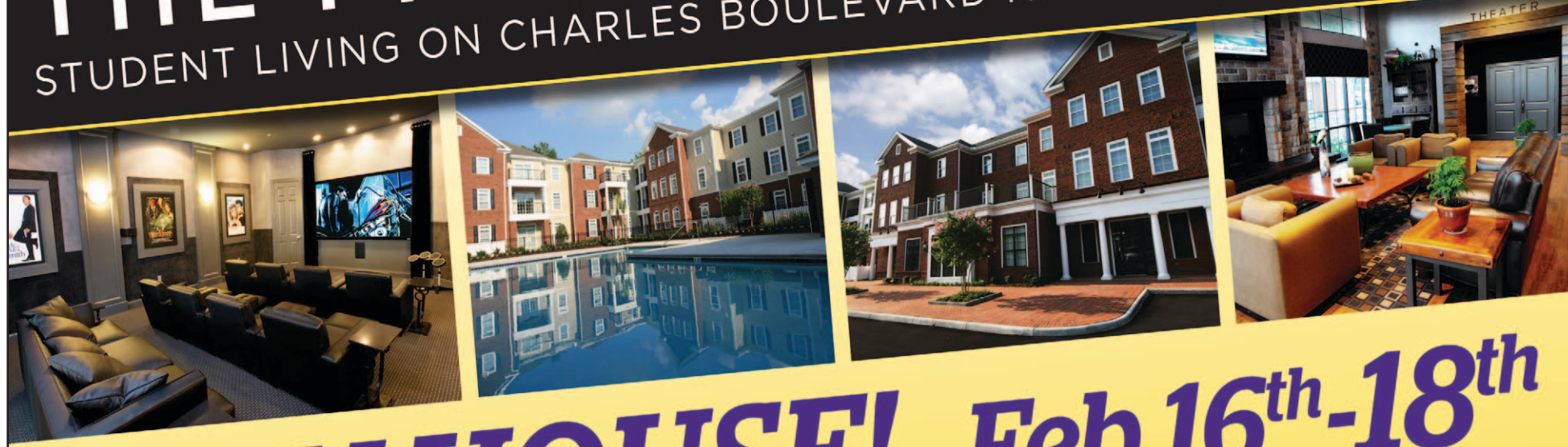
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Berry Gratin is a quick and easy dessert dish for Valentine's.

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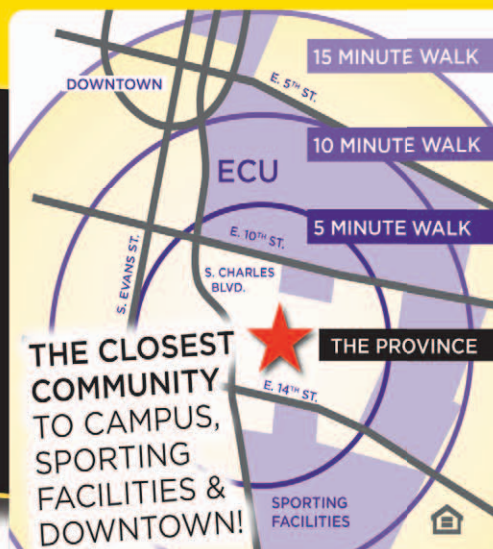
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Pirates snap 14-game skid

Women's cross country garners academic honors

Staff Reports

The ECU women's cross country squad has been named a Division I All-Academic Cross Country Team, according to an announcement by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTF-CCCA) Monday. As a group, the women posted a 3.32 grade-point average.

To qualify as a USTFCCCA All-Academic Cross Country Team, the unit must have had a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better and have started at least five runners at its respective NCAA regional championship. This year, the USTFCCCA honored 205 institutions, representing 30 conferences. Alabama reported the nation's highest cumulative team GPA (3.83), followed by Chattanooga (3.81). Conference USA had 10 of its 12 women's programs receive the academic award.

Last week, ECU senior Britany Copeland earned USTFCCCA Division I All-Academic Cross Country status. She is a two-time C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll selection and was named to the ECU Dean's List (3.5 GPA required) for the Spring 2010 semester. In the fall of 2010 and 2011, she earned a place on ECU's Chancellor's List (4.0 GPA required).

Fellow seniors Amanda Lapp and Tara Wilson each have three C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll picks in their careers. Wilson is a three-time East Carolina Dean's List and Honor Roll (3.0 GPA required) selection, while Lapp has two Dean's List and two Honor Roll semesters to her credit.

On the course, the women turned in one of the best seasons in program history in 2011. The squad cracked the USTFCCCA regional rankings for the first time, checking in 10th in the Southeast Region on Sept. 28 and ninth on Oct. 3. At the league championship on Oct. 31, the team placed an ECU-best fourth out of 12.

Baseball ranks No. 22 in preseason poll

Staff Reports

The ECU baseball team received its second preseason, Top 30 ranking of the season on Sunday, when they were tabbed No. 22 by Perfect Game.

The Pirates, who made their third NCAA Regional Final appearance under head coach Billy Godwin in 2011 after posting a 41-21 record, also garnered a No. 26 ranking by College Baseball Lineup, formerly Ping!Baseball, on Jan. 14. They have also received votes in the Collegiate Baseball, USA Today/ESPN and National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) polls.

Coming off its 11th NCAA Regional appearance in the last 13 seasons, ECU welcomes back 22 letter winners, including 2011 Second-Team All-Conference USA performers Kevin Brandt and Zach Wright.

This season, 12 new Pirates will join the team on the 2012 campaign.

Club baseball sweeps home opener

Staff Reports

The club baseball team made a clean sweep of Macon State College on Saturday and Sunday. The Pirates' topped the Blue Storm in all three games, winning 10-2 and 3-1 in a Saturday double header.

On Sunday, the club team completed the sweep with a 13-2 victory in a seven-inning game, shortened due to the 10-run rule. In the final game of the series, the Pirates opened up the game with seven runs in the first two frames of play.

ECU will host Virginia Tech this weekend, beginning with a Saturday double header and a final game against the Hokies on Sunday. First pitch is set for noon on both days.



Forward Chareya Smith (15) shoots a jumper over Marshall guard Erica Woods (15) on Sunday.

Daniel Brockman II
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN
@dbrockman2

Clad in their pink uniforms for "Play4Kay" week, the Pirates were able to outlast the Thundering Herd of Marshall on Sunday, 61-57, for their first conference win of the season.

"Good things are going to happen for this basketball team," said coach Heather Macy.

With the win, the Pirates improve to 7-17, and 1-10 in conference. More notably, with the win, the Pirates end their 14-game losing streak.

Sophomore Kristine Mial tallied 19 points and seven rebounds, while senior Chareya Smith ended with 16 points and five rebounds. Junior guard Celeste Stewart filled up the stat sheet with eight points, five rebounds, three steals and three assists.

"They've worked incredibly hard, and they've continued to work," said Macy.

However, the Pirates did not start the game off the way Macy had hoped.

"I thought we were settling for jump shots to start the game," said Macy. "We got down a little bit at the beginning of the game, and that's kind of been how we've started games."

Down 24-14 and facing the largest deficit of the game, the Pirates began to attack the rim and played with more pressure on defense.

"When we started attacking the basket and getting to the free throw line it made a big difference," said Macy.

The Pirates pieced together a 14-0 run, keeping the Thundering Herd without a field goal for more than nine and a half game minutes.

Once the Pirates took the lead in the second half, the game was a back and forth affair. Stewart put together an individual 5-0 run with a 3-pointer and mid-range jump shot on consecutive Marshall turnovers.

Marshall would not go away though, fighting back to take a 40-35 lead on a 6-2 run of their own. However, the Pirates were quickly putting together a 40-point second half.

"For us to score 40 points in a half, that may be the most we've scored in a half this year," said Macy.

With 2:30 left in the game, and every possession critical, the Pirates showed their increased efforts on free throw shooting, converting eight of nine attempts. Smith paced the Pirates in the final minutes, going four for five from the charity stripe.

> PIRATES page A7

Senior ready to lead

Jordan Anders
STAFF WRITER
@jordan_anders

When Tim Younger decided to transfer to ECU to play baseball, he thought he was simply realizing his dream of playing Division I college baseball.

What he wasn't banking on was making such an impact that he would be awarded the most prestigious honor that Pirate baseball can bestow upon a player.

But that's exactly what happened back in January, when Younger was chosen to wear the honorary No. 23 jersey that belonged to late ECU baseball coach Keith LeClair.

"I was just ecstatic," said Younger, a senior infielder. "I was just really humbled and honored. It's a tremendous honor."

The Pirate baseball program annually awards the No. 23 jersey to a player who most exhibits the same determination and desire as LeClair. 2012 is the ninth year that the number has been awarded.

But the kicker about Younger's case is that last season was his first with the ECU baseball program, which, according to ECU baseball coach Billy Godwin, makes the fact that Younger earned the No. 23 that much more impressive.

"For him to receive this award, being the first junior college guy (to receive it) and only being here a year and a half, that says all there is to say about Timmy Younger," Godwin said in January.

Younger's road to ECU began in his home-

> SENIOR page A7



Tim Younger (5) looks to gun down baserunner in 2011.

Memphis moves east, ECU stays put

Alex Serkes
OPINION COLUMNIST



Last Wednesday, the Memphis Tigers' athletic director R.C. Johnson announced that the

program accepted an invitation to join the Big East in all sports, starting in 2013.

The decision was made public during a news conference at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, a whirlwind of conference changes continue.

As of Monday, the remaining members of Conference USA and the Mountain West made it official to not just merge but also develop a new athletic association.

Memphis was the most recent edition to the Big East since the departure of powerhouse schools Syracuse and Pittsburgh last fall. The Big East has speculated to adding six more teams to the conference in the upcoming years, three of which include C-USA's Central Florida, Houston and SMU. Despite the rumors, C-USA commissioner Britton Banowsky does not expect to lose any more schools from the conference.

"Based upon my conversations with commissioner Marinatto, the Big East has now completed its future membership plan," Banowsky said. "If this is true, it is very helpful as we can now move forward with our plans in a more stable national environment. We hope that the other conferences appreciate the value of stability in intercollegiate athletics and higher education."

Regardless of the facts, this is old news for most of us, and I speak for many, if not all college sports fans, when I say the whole conference reconstructions of recent years has brought a dull label over the NCAA.

Instead of honoring tradition and history, teams are now quick to jump ship to the highest bidder in search for greater profit and opportunity. I, for one, am

> MEMPHIS page A7

Cold temps end Classic early



Jasmine Robbins jogs towards a mob of her teammates after she ripped a three-run home run against Canisius.

Ronnie Moore
STAFF WRITER

This weekend, the softball team probably didn't expect sub-freezing temperatures and even colder wind chills, as the Lady Pirates had to start their season enduring the coldest temperatures that Greenville has

seen during this winter season for the Pirate Classic. ECU played host to the round robin tournament with the Virginia Cavaliers, the Drexel Dragons and the Canisius Golden Griffins.

The Pirates were scheduled to face the Virginia Cavaliers at 10 a.m. Sunday morning, when tem-

peratures in the teens caused both coaches to agree to cancel their second matchup of the weekend.

On Friday, ECU got off to a tough start when it faced the Cavaliers. The Pirates managed only four hits for the game, which all started in the sixth inning when the Pirates

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"We needed the free points," said Smith. Marshall continued to dig, scoring seven points in the final minute, but the Pirates' lead never fell below four points for the final two and a half minutes of the game. "I think we all motivated each other," said Smith. "When we were sitting in the huddle our adrenaline was rushing." The Pirates finished the game converting 75 percent

(12-16) of their free throw attempts. "We discussed that we don't want to lose any more," said Mial. "It was definitely nice to win today. Our hard work definitely paid off." Macy credited the crowd of 3,258, the fifth largest in program history, for helping the Pirates keep their spirits up. "Our fans have stuck with us and we appreciate that a bunch," said Macy. "It makes for a nice home court environment." The win was

the first home victory for the Pirates since their defeat of Monmouth University on Nov. 30, 2011. The Pirates will look to extend their one-game win streak this Thursday inside Minges Coliseum against the University of Houston. The Pirates are tied with Houston for eleventh in conference standings. Tip-off is scheduled for 7 p.m. This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

MEMPHIS continued from A6

still having trouble calling the "Pac-10" the "Pac-12," and questioning why the "Big Ten" has 12 teams. Part of the blame in football can be put on the BCS, but that's another topic entirely. In ECU's case, and the case of its fan base, it seems to be the same song but a different verse, as we witness another opportunity to join the Big East slip through our fingers. It is quite a quarrelsome topic, and one that is hard to swallow for most die-hard Pirates. For the umpteenth year in a row, the Pirates have shattered the C-USA in average attendance per game statistics, with an average of 50,012 in 2011. ECU's average attendance for 2011 was 15,729 more than UCF, which ranked second in average attendance in the conference. Also, compared to the ACC and Big 12's attendance numbers, ECU's 2011 average attendance would have ranked in their top five. And with five consecutive bowl game

appearances (prior to this year) and lifetime winning records over potential Big East invitees Houston and Central Florida in football, something has got to give. Sadly though, we must sit and wait for the next chance that the "glorious" opportunity to jump conferences arises once again. It is hard to call such an opportunity glorious, however, as the Big East is turning into almost as much of a lackluster conference as the C-USA. Nonetheless, with Memphis gone, the ECU football team, which is coming off a disappointing season, loses an easy win and an annual tune-up game. We won't, however, miss them in basketball, as they have beaten us quite handily almost every year. And Memphis is pretty irrelevant when it comes to baseball, so no harm there. Clearly Memphis' biggest contribution to the Big East will be in basketball. The Tigers have made 23

NCAA tournament appearances with a record of 32-23. The Tigers played in the national title game in 1973 and 2008, when they lost to UCLA and Kansas, respectively. They also reached the Final Four in 1985 and lost in three other regional finals. News of this move is definitely a blow to the heart of many faithful Pirates, but with the outlook of NCAA sports the way it is today, opportunities like these are coming around a lot more often. It is inevitable that ECU will eventually switch conferences, but the obvious question is when that particular time will come. However, one thing is for sure. Whether ECU is playing in the C-USA or the SEC, Dowdy-Ficklen stadium will continue to sell out, and its confines will remain packed with Purple and Gold. This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

CLASSIC continued from A6



Freshman hurler Courtney Smith (13) earned her first career win and save on Saturday.

got their first hit. ECU tallied three hits in that inning and Cicely Lopez drove in the only run with her double into the gap. Virginia pitcher Melanie Mitchell gave up only four hits and a run, while striking out 13 Lady Pirates. She started the game and made her presence known by striking out seven of the first nine batters of the game. Virginia collected the win and the Pirates began their season losing 3-1. The second game for the Pirates started completely different as they stormed out of the gates with eight runs in the first four innings against the Canisius Golden Griffins. Cold rain began to fall on ECU's softball complex and it dampened the fifth inning as Sarah Christian began to walk Canisius batters. Christian had good control until the rain began to pour down, and as a result, she walked in three runs and gave the Dragons hope for a comeback. The rain was coming down with force as the umpires delayed the game and had the grounds crew bring the tarp out to cover the

infield. After a couple minutes, the game resumed and Courtney Smith came in to replace Christian in the circle. One more run was scored, but the Pirates made it out of the inning. ECU stormed back in the bottom half of the fifth with four more runs and the game ended there. In college, if a team is leading by eight runs after five innings, then the game is ended, and in this case, the Lady Pirates received the win. With the Friday night win, the Pirates split their games Friday with a 1-1 record heading into the Saturday games. Virginia played the first two games Saturday and the Lady Cavaliers handily outscored Canisius and Drexel by a combined 21-2 margin. Then, the Lady Pirates handled the aforementioned Canisius and Drexel 6-2 and 9-7, respectively. Virginia was the only undefeated team of the Pirate Classic, going 4-0 for the weekend. The Lady Pirates respectively went 3-1. Canisius followed and finished third in the tournament with a 1-3 record. The only

winless team of the tournament was the Drexel Dragons, who finished 0-3. Sunday would have been a great opportunity for the Pirates to compare themselves with the ACC member, Virginia. After losing 3-1 in the first game of the year, the Pirates would have had their chance to tie the Cavaliers in the weekend series, but the weather lead to cancelled games for Sunday. The top performer of the weekend for the Pirates was Jasmine Robbins, who had six hits, six runs batted in and one homerun. In the first game on Saturday, Robbins had two hits, one of which went over the fence, and four runs-batted in that single game. As a team, the Pirates hit .324 in four games and they held their opponents to only a .253 batting average. The Pirates can build on this tournament success when they face the No. 25 team in the country, Louisville, on Friday in the Pirate Clash at home. This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Love Pirate sports?

Attend *The East Carolinian* hiring fair for your chance to join the TEC Sports Staff on Feb. 23 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Contact Micah Lockhart at publiceditor@theeastcarolinian.com.

SENIOR continued from A6

town of Clearwater, Fla., where he picked up the game of baseball as a toddler. He attended nearby St. Petersburg College for two years before transferring to ECU in August 2010. As a junior, Younger appeared in 50 games with the Pirates, making 29 starts. He posted a .250 batting average (20-for-80) tallying five doubles, 10 RBI, and 13 runs scored. But more than his performance on the diamond, Younger made an impression on teammates and coaches with his dedication to the team and his desire to succeed. "This is a guy that does it right," said Younger's former teammate Austin Homan, who presented the award to Younger at January's Meet the Pirates event and wore the No. 23 twice himself. "There's not a day that goes by that (Younger) doesn't lead by example, whether it's on the field with his hustle, in the weight room with his perseverance, or in the locker

room with his relationships," said Homan. Younger said that he realizes there are a lot of expectations that come along with wearing the number of arguably the most influential person in the history of Pirate baseball. But he also said that ECU fans shouldn't expect anything different from him on the field in 2012. "I wouldn't say (there is) pressure (in wearing No. 23)," he said. "I'm just going to go out there and be myself and play my game. I got it for a reason, I guess, so I'm not really going to change anything because of it. I'm just going to go out there and hustle and do my best to bring honor to it." Younger is one of six Pirate seniors that will be looked upon to provide veteran leadership to a baseball team that now features 11 newcomers. He said he hopes to instill in those players the work ethic that helped him earn No. 23 in the first place. "Last year's juniors and seniors brought me along

and showed me how things are done, so I think it kind of reflects on them that I carry myself the way I do, because I learned from them," he said. "If I have to push the guy in front of me, I'll push the guy in front of me. That's part of being a senior." With his final year of college baseball upon him, Younger said he is disappointed that he has just one more season at ECU. But he is determined to do what it takes to get this team to the College World Series, regardless of what number he's wearing. "(Being a senior is) a little bittersweet," he said, "but God has something else for me after this, and I'll just take it as I get it. But I'm going to give it all I got this year." That's the kind of attitude that Keith LeClair would likely have been proud of. This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

MURDER MYSTERY

DINNER PARTY TO A MURDER

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Deadline to apply for WZMB Station Manager is 3/2/12. For a detailed job description email moyey@ecu.edu. For an application visit www.ecu.edu/studentmedia.

The East Carolinian

Campus Newspaper

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The East Carolinian Editor is responsible for supervising the editorial operations of the twice weekly, student-run newspaper during the fall and spring semesters and once a week during the summer sessions. The editor should be knowledgeable of basic editorial, production, newspaper's newsgathering responsibilities and First Amendment rights. Have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Adobe Creative Suite software programs. Stay in the newsroom until pages are sent to the printer. Meet with Student Media director and/or advisor for discussions about TEC's operations and provide a monthly report to ECU Student Media Board about the newspaper's editorial operations.

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