



## BRIEFS

### Youth Arts Festival to be held at university

#### Staff Reports

The eighth annual Youth Arts Festival at ECU will be held on Saturday, March 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Mall.

More than 100 visual and performing artists from the university and surrounding area will be present to share their talents with children and their families.

There will be activities such as wheel-thrown ceramics, watercolor painting, weaving, papermaking, printmaking, portraiture and blacksmithing.

Children will be able to create their own artwork with the help of university art students, faculty members and professional artists.

There will also be opportunities for interaction with musical, dance and theatrical groups.

The event coincides with Youth Arts Month, which is sponsored by the North Carolina Education Association.

For more information, visit the festival website at [ecu.edu/soad/youtharts.cfm](http://ecu.edu/soad/youtharts.cfm).

### Foreign exchange programs need change

#### Staff Reports

A federal report recently released says that State Department programs that bring foreign exchange students to America for school or work need urgent attention.

According to WITN, the report states that foreign exchange students are being put at risk for abuse.

The report came from the Inspector General's office and says that the risks result from poorly run programs by the State Department.

It suggests restructuring the programs and letting the Labor Department take over some.

The report is the latest in a series of problems faced by the State Department in relation to exchange programs.

### University offers several summer writing camps

#### Staff Reports

This summer, the Tar River Writing Project will sponsor several camps for young writers in Pitt County and the surrounding areas.

Young writers of all ability levels are invited to the camps this summer at ECU.

Students from public, private and home school environments are able to participate.

The camps begin in June and end in July, and are aimed at rising fourth graders to rising twelfth graders.

Space is limited for all camps. For a detailed description and application for a camp, visit the Tar River Writing Project website at [trwp.org/ywc2012](http://trwp.org/ywc2012).

### Fire displaces six people in Greenville apartment

#### Staff Reports

Fire officials say that a fire displaced six people on Tuesday afternoon in Greenville.

The fire occurred at around 4 p.m. on Concord Drive in unit 116-D and was confined to an upstairs bedroom.

No other units were damaged and the American Red Cross Volunteers are now helping the displaced people.



Senior painting major Tara Moldovan works on a portrait in one of the painting studios in the Leo Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

RYAN HARPER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

# Fine arts raises own funding

### Cameron Gupton

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

For the second year in a row, some portions of the university's Fine Arts Department did not receive state funding.

Before a previous move from the Department of Student Affairs, the performing arts trio used student fees but stopped receiving funding as the budget crisis began.

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series and Family Fare and Arts Smart constitute the trio that did not receive funding.

The performing arts series brings entertainment to campus and has offered acts such as Chris Botti and Ballet Memphis this year.

Family Fare introduces children to theatre by presenting "theatre for the entire family" and Arts Smart delivers educational theatre at a subsidized price.

Last year, the department paid the bills for these through box office receipts, grants and student fee support.

Ticket revenue from last year's programs accounted for 80 percent, grants for 11 percent and student fee support for nine percent of the budget.

In the end, the department experienced no loss and actually closed the



During class, junior painting major Sterling Lieske adds to her painting.

RYAN HARPER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

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# Grads hustle to make it

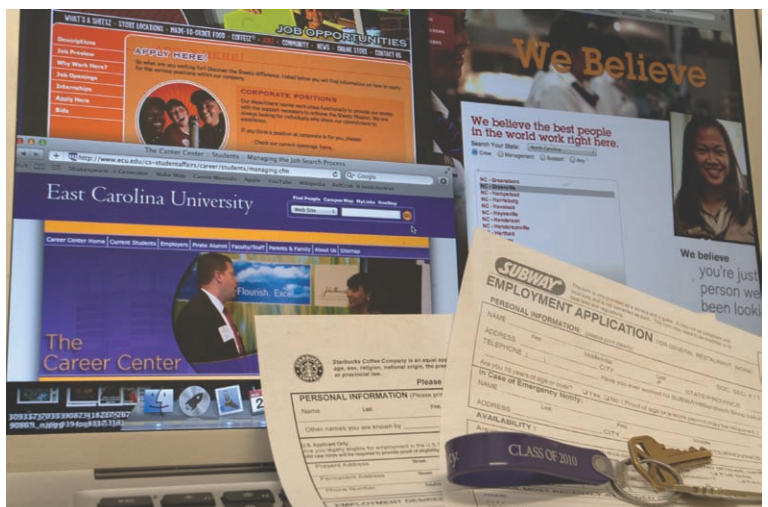


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | NICK FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Recent college graduates are getting multiple minimum wage jobs to get by.

### Cameron Gupton

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Now that as much as 20 percent of the nation is unemployed, many people are resorting to hustling in order to make ends meet, especially recent college graduates.

Graduates from across the country are hustling, which means they have more than one source of income and may continue working after their 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. jobs are over.

The trend is becoming more and more popular and students from across the country and from various schools are participating, whether they are grads of an Ivy League university, ECU or a com-

munity college.

According to a recent report by Rutgers University, the salary for a recent college graduate is down \$3,000 from 2007, increasing the need for students to find extra jobs to make up for the loss.

"It used to be no problem to get a job. I was looking for jobs in the Wake Forest area the other day and there was only one," said senior Sarah Ashley. "I don't want to be waiting tables for the rest of my life."

Not only does the economy and unemployment have a bearing on whether a graduate is hired, but the need for them within a particular field is also a deciding factor.

Constant developments in technology are eliminating the need for

journalists, bookstore owners and postal clerks, along with several other careers.

"Many college students have faced challenges during and post-graduation," said Career Center director Karen Thompson, regarding students working multiple jobs. "Factors that have contributed to these challenges include not only the obvious downturn in the economy, which translates to fewer internships and full-time career opportunities, but there are secondary factors that have significantly contributed to the need to financially support themselves."

Thompson pointed out that tuition increase, family financial support after graduation and the rising price of living have also contributed to students needing to hustle.

"It's scary," said senior communication major Josh Harris about not being able to find a job. "If I had to find a minimum wage job, I would, but I don't have to right now."

But there may be some good news for 2012 graduates and need to hustle may become less common in the coming years.

Several fields have

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# Government loan rate may double

### Melanie Jock

STAFF WRITER

Interest rates on subsidized Stafford Loans are set to increase from the current rate of 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1.

According to reports from TIME, the hike comes as a result of College Cost Reduction and Access Act ending this summer, which was introduced in 2007 to cut the interest rate of the subsidized Stafford Loan in half. The act continuously lowered the rate, until it reached the rate of 3.4 percent this year.

Students across the nation have begun to protest the change to the popular federal loan, and over 130,000 letters were delivered to Congress last week in hopes of keeping the rate the same. Julie Poorman, director of financial aid, said it is important for students on campus to get involved and she offered advice for students who want to participate to help overturn Congress' decision.

"I would love to see ECU students voice their opinions to their Congress persons," said Poorman. "Go to the U.S. Senate website and then go to the Congress website. Find out who is your Congress person, write them and tell

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## INSIDE

### OPINION

Showers have drains, but that doesn't make them urinals. **A4**

### LIFESTYLES

Three very different women balance motherhood with college. Turn to Lifestyles to read their stories. **A6**

### SPORTS

Baseball picked up a big win against N.C. State on Tuesday. Turn to Sports to see if they beat High Point on the road. **A8**

## WEATHER

79°F/ 59°F

Thunderstorms



GRAPHICS FROM ENTROPIA.COM

## ONLINE



Check out our fan page on facebook and [twitter.com/ecunews](http://twitter.com/ecunews).

# Graduate programs rank nationally

Jamie Harper  
STAFF WRITER

Two ECU programs have been ranked as the best graduate and professional programs in the nation.

The Brody School of Medicine and the rehabilitation counseling program were both ranked in the U.S. News & World Annual Report magazine. The rehabilitation and counseling program, part of the College of Allied Health, ranked 13th on the report.

The mission statement for the rehabilitation and counseling program states, "The primary mission of ECU's master's program in rehabilitation counseling is to teach counseling and rehabilitation theories, applied counseling approaches, and clinical skills necessary for professionals to assist individuals..."

According to a statement given by Lloyd Goodwin, interim chair for the Department of Rehabilitation Studies, the ranking that was received this year is consistent with the rankings from previous years due to the amount of career preparation and high quality of instruction the students of the program receive. Most student interns of the program are offered jobs while interning or after their internship has been completed, according to Goodwin.

The Brody School of Medicine was ranked 31st in the report for best primary care schools of the year.

"We are keeping our mission and will continue to do so. It is a matter of national perception," said Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean and senior associate vice chancellor for medical affairs of the Brody School of Medicine.

The School of Medicine, its name at the time, was established in 1974 after receiving protest from the public, and the first enrolled class consisted of 28 students. In 1999, the school was renamed Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

"We have a relatively small class, but we have been progressing really powerfully over a period of time and this has been well recog-

nized," said Cunningham.

"Primary care" was considered to be family medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine by U.S. News. Additionally, in 2011, 57 percent of the graduates of the Brody School of Medicine chose primary care residencies ranking the program the seventh highest for graduates that receive primary care residencies.

"I already know, as a student, that Brody is a leader in primary care and that is truly what drew me here in the first place," said Stephanie Carrier, a second-year student with the Brody School of Medicine. "The number is not as important to me as the education I'm getting. I already know that I'm going to come out really well prepared to work with patients directly and be a good primary care doctor. The ranking is exciting but it means more to me being a student here and experiencing it firsthand."

The 57 percent of graduates choosing primary care residencies surpassed that of UNC-Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, and Duke.

"The results from this year's match confirms that we continue to meet our mission, which is dedication to primary care physicians ... we are glad we are in the rankings with much larger schools," said Cunningham.

Cunningham also explained that although the report is somewhat of a "beauty contest" in his opinion, perceptions of the public are important.

"We all know what a great school this is, but having that national ranking is an extra little boost for ourselves," said Samuel Dail, a first-year student with the Brody School of Medicine. "We have worked hard to get here and when it comes time for finding a residency, I think all those things matter."

The report, which is released annually, will be on newsstands April 3. The report ranks universities, colleges, high schools, and graduate and professional programs.

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

# Healthy Pirates domain guilty of infringement

## Staff Reports

A Greenville man was found guilty of trademark infringement while using the Healthy Pirates domain, a website for a health magazine.

Healthy Pirates magazine is created as a guide for nutrition and health and has an estimated 15,000 readers every quarter.

Roy Hopkins Jr. was ordered to no longer use the term "Pirates", or images of skulls, crossbones or any logos similar to the ECU logo, and no use of the purple and gold color scheme.

"I think he should be able to use the colors. Lots of people use those colors. If it's not the actual ECU logo, he should be ok," said Kelsey Phillips, a sophomore elementary education major.

ECU has had a campus student organization, Healthy Pirates, for years. The organization promotes health and wellness through peer health

educators. The students in the organization are trained to teach other students about health issues.

The judge found that Hopkins Jr. infringed and diluted five counts of the US Trademark Registration. According to the complaint that was filed, "Defendant has attempted to capitalize on and unlawfully profit from Plaintiff's good will by providing goods and services related to those associated with Plaintiff's Marks, and by doing so, in conjunction with word marks, logos, and color schemes, intended to cause confusion or to deceive as to Defendant's affiliation, connection, or association with Plaintiff."

"I don't think that's fair. It seems like too much; all of that isn't necessary," said Emily Gerringer, a freshmen public relations major.

Currently, the website that Hopkins Jr. compiled has been changed and is no

longer HealthyPirates.com. It automatically redirects users to Profitness24-7.com. The latest edition of the magazine also had a new style and colors on the cover.

"We constantly keep our eyes open, looking for the possibility that marks may be infringed or may be used inappropriately. We have a duty to take action when we see that," said Donna Payne, the university attorney.

Before going to court over the issue in April 2011, the university did attempt to reach a mutually accepted resolution. "The decision to sue only came when it was very clear that it was going to be impossible to resolve without litigation," said Payne.

Hopkins Jr. was ordered by a judge to transfer the domain to East Carolina University and to pay court and attorney costs, estimated to be \$36,357.03.

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season with a surplus. The department hopes to replicate the same outcome this year.

"This series is designed to break even," said Michael Crane, associate dean of the Department of Fine Arts.

Crane said the series also aims to serve the community at large and to serve more students.

"It's not fair to the fine arts," said sophomore Diana Herrmann. "Art is very important and you see it every day."

According to Crane, the department may be unique in that it does not have an institutional subsidy, whether it is from the state, city, or school, or from an endowment.

The department does have an endowment, but it

does not draw from it. The endowment, which was created in 1990, currently sits at \$550,000, but has an ultimate goal of \$1 million in order to continuously draw in big acts.

"The arts are important to people and are an outlet," said English education major Megan Giunco. "For someone to have to pay for it is unfair."

This year, the department is celebrating its 50th anniversary and has brought many big-name acts to the university in order to raise necessary funds.

The acts have been more prominent than in the past, but it was a risk the Fine Arts Department was willing to take.

"This is a wonderful opportunity that the com-

munity supports," said Crane. "It's nice to know the community supports what you bring on stage; we want the enthusiasm to keep going."

Crane said that 26 percent of attendees to the programs are ECU students and the programs are starting to aim more toward a younger audience.

On April 12, the 2012 season will end with Natalie Cole performing in Wright Auditorium. There are 600 seats available and tickets will sell for \$65 for non-students.

A list of tickets still on sale for this semester, the summer and the fall semester, can be found at [ecuarts.com](http://ecuarts.com).

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

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them what you think?"

Poorman said time is short, and now is the time for students' opinions to be heard, since she believes they have the biggest effect on Congress.

"Let them hear your voice," she said. "They don't know who you are, tell them who you are. And tell them what kind of impact this will have on your life and future."

Battling continues in Congress, as President Obama and other Democrats want to keep the low rate, while Republicans want it to return to the higher rate. Democrats predict extending the reduced rate an additional year would only cost about \$3 billion, while Republicans say it would cost \$7 billion, TIME reports.

For students, the

increased rate will only add extra cost to the final total of loans in a time when student loan debt is at a record high.

Sophomore elementary education major Alyssa Reynolds said that if the rate increases, she will research other loan options and apply for more scholarships to help fund her education.

"College is already expensive enough, so we have to take out money to go," said Reynolds.

Senior political science major Charlie Hagerman has had to take out loans for college as well and will have to take out more when he attends law school next year.

"I think that education is an investment," said Hagerman. "The government should have lower rates for students since the investment

is necessary for jobs in our country."

Another change taking place with the Stafford Loan is the elimination of funding for graduate students, which also begins on July 1. Graduate students will no longer be able to apply for the subsidized loan, only the unsubsidized. Subsidized Stafford Loans are need-based funding, in contrast with unsubsidized, which are not need-based. The unsubsidized loan currently has a set interest rate of 6.8 percent.

"It could conceivably have a chilling effect on graduate school," said Poorman. She believes because of job shortages, many students are taking the alternative route of graduate school, rather than entering into the real world. This becomes a costly option.

"When you owe a lot of money, your choices after graduation are limited," she said.

Poorman urges students to voice views about the elimination of the loan for graduate students.

"There are websites out there where you can find who your legislator is and I suggest you write them," she said. "This goes into effect July 1. That means you have less than four months to get something done about it. There's still time for Congress to act; they can reverse themselves."

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

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reported hiring more graduates. Finance, insurance, chemical manufacturing, utilities, computer and electronics manufacturing and oil and gas extraction are among these.

"According to an annual survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, the market for new hires by com-

panies across the country is positive," said Thompson.

The Midwest and the West will see most of the new hires, while the "Southeastern and Northeastern employers have smaller increases planned."

In order to improve the likelihood of being hired and avoid hustling, students can utilize any of the tools offered

by the Career Center such as PirateJobs.com, where, on March 20, more than 600 internships and full time positions were posted. Interview preparations, job searches and individualized career coaching are also offered on the website.

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

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## PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding rants can be directed to Stephen McNulty at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com). Log onto [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](http://opinion@theeastcarolinian.com) to submit a Rant of your own.

The ECU Drag Show: Yet again reminding me to hit the gym so I look half as good in a dress as men.

Showers have drains, but that doesn't make them urinals.

I HAVE THE BIGGEST CRUSH ON MY MICRO TA. Like hardcore. But I don't know how to tell her though because I am a hot blonde girl myself.

Did that letter to the editor really complain about being "disgusted" and "insulted" by the pink trees? They're just trees...

Dear professor, if you could look down at your crotch and see what I see, you would smile too.

Finished reading Pirate Rants, fire alarm, class cancelled... that worked out well.

Please, take as long as humanly possible to cross the street in front of my car. Clearly your swagger is more important than me getting anywhere.

To the African-Americans who sang "God is my Everything" in front of Dowdy on Tuesday: y'all are awesome! Love, your white sister in Christ.

I wanna give a shout out to all the dudes with little d\*\*\*\* who still get it in on ease. Been plowin' since 2010.

I apologize to all on College Hill who saw me freak out on the guy in the Bama hat. As an Auburn fan, it is required to make fun of those hillbillies. Go Pirates and War Eagle.

When there is a guest speaker in the class try to be respectful people. Turn off your phones and computers — especially when there are only 15 in the classroom.

I can't believe how rude people are. It's amazing how fast the student population jump on bandwagons. Did anyone care about Kony before that Invisible Children passport? No. Had anyone heard of Kony? No.

To the girl looking me up and down when I was walking in to the elevator... Honey, you didn't look good either, so I don't know why you were staring.

Secret Poop Palace includes well-lit area, privacy for days, and AIR CONDITIONING! I will never reveal its location.

#ThatAwkwardMoment when your Pirate Rant gets published, but you can't tell anyone because they would know EXACTLY who you're talking about.

Sheetz, can you please stop wrapping the wrapper into my sub? It doesn't belong there.

A chicken sandwich is a bun and fried chicken, NOT two pieces of chicken or two sets of buns. Marriage is union between one man and one woman. Definition is a definition.

I did not push you out of my vagina, therefore, I am not your mother. Clean your dishes please.

Disturbing fact for today: All that pollen floating around? That's basically tree semen.

There is a .8 correlation between having that flip-flops decal on your car and also having a decal of your initials in curly font.

You wait 3 hours to text me back, I wait 3 months to pleasure you orally. Karma...

Joyner Library: I came. I couldn't find a seat. I said f\*\*\* it.

I thought it was supposed to be Purple Haze at ECU? Not yellow pollen haze?

> RANTS page A5

## SOUND OFF



**Ben Cochran**  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
Senior Nursing Major  
@Ben\_Cochran

Over the last couple of years, I've noticed a gradual, yet altogether perceptible, change. At first, I thought it was merely an anomaly — an isolated incident that should hardly cause one to bat an eye. But then I noticed it occurring with greater frequency, to a point of somewhat regularity, to a present pervasiveness and inescapable ubiquity. And it can hardly be refuted that our campus is bottomed and capped and wrapped with b\*\*\*\*y girls.

The situation is a fairly alarming and wholly off-putting. Just the other day, I was walking into Destination 360, when the girl in front of me dropped her book. As any warm-blooded male raised in the South would do, my knee-jerk reaction was to instantly stoop to grab the book, brush it off, and present it back to its owner with as big of a chivalrous grin as I could muster.

Though I didn't act with the expectation that I would somehow be rewarded, the situation did, however, merit a courteous response or at the very least a shy smile. And while this ungrateful little girl did manage to utter a hasty "thanks," the tone with which it was delivered expressed a replete disgust and agitation at even having to feign politeness.

Or, how about the she-devil I encountered at Club 519 last weekend who, after I bought a round of shots, had the effrontery to outright ask for another, as if it were somehow an immutable law of nature that she should have drinks bought for her by virtue of the lone fact that she was a female present at a bar.

Not wanting to play the role of the dissenter and shatter her aggrandized self-worth, I decided not to inform her that her defecations would, in all likelihood, be malodorous. So, I somewhat grudgingly bought two more shots. As I was settling up with the bartender, the little minx snatched both shots and proceeded to give one to her friend. O villain, villain — smiling, d\*\*\*\* villain!

And these are just the latest examples that I've noticed. What girl out there hasn't gotten upset at her roommate for "borrowing" clothes without permission? Or that time you befriended that girl with the deliciously handsome boyfriend? You're not fooling anyone; we all know you followed her to serve your turn upon her.

The situation is getting out of control. In fact, in a 2011 survey conducted by Rasmussen Reports, 76 percent of those surveyed said Americans are becoming more rude and less civil. Cindy Post Senning, the director for the Emily Post Institute for Etiquette and Civility, states that, "the principles of respect, consideration and honesty are universal and timeless," but these principles may not be reflected in our everyday vernacular.

March is Women's History Month. At this time, I'd like to raise a glass to you all as a sex; your's has been a tough row to hoe. And I understand that gender disparities still, unfortunately, exist and that the feminist movement is still necessary.

But somewhere along the way, our society has started to fail its women. We have, for some unbeknownst reason, spread the propaganda that all you have to do is be pretty and that will excuse many shortcomings — not the least of which being the inclination to think independently, act courteously, and live graciously.

If women truly are the fairer of the sexes, I'm seeing little evidence of it here on campus. So, girls of ECU, I don't care how highly you tout yourselves; if you're lacking in civility, humility, and urbanity, then expect unabashed reciprocity.

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



**Abby Brockmeyer**  
OPINION COLUMNIST  
Senior Communication Major  
@AbbyBrockmeyer

A long, long time ago in a faraway land, much farther away than the small hub of East Carolina University, there lived men that were worthwhile to date.

Gone are the days of chivalry, gone are the days of condoms, gone are the days of women being able to actually trust the people they are dating.

Now, what we have to look forward to are misogynistic cookie-cutter men always looking for the next best thing. Worst of all, they make us, women, seem like we aren't ever good enough.

When walking around campus, there are a few things that catch your eye. First of all, we are an extremely good-looking bunch of young folks. From watching a game of Frisbee being played on the mall to walking around the ever-crowded Starbucks in Dowdy, you can't help but notice, most of the people you are looking at aren't hurting your eyes.

Second, one realizes rather quickly the overwhelming overpopulation of women compared to the staggeringly unpopulated male group. This is the root of all evil. These men have the pick of the litter at this school, and boy do they make you feel like a litter to be picked out of.

Countless times at this school, I have heard the cries and frustrations of women, once again tossed out from a relationship by a guy that never gives it a second thought.

From, "he said it was just bad timing and we should still be friends," to "he said this is all getting to be too serious and he's not at a serious place in his life" — I've heard it all.

As women, we all get the same criticisms. We get called "sluts" and get told that we play mind games. We get called "needy" and, my personal

LISA TREADWAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

favorite, that we are asking for it because we go downtown to meet guys.

My argument for that is this: many of us are content being single, many of us are content not having a boyfriend and many of us are definitely looking for a boyfriend, but we aren't just doing that at a bar downtown.

And the behavior from guys I see all around campus on a daily basis just goes to show that no matter where we meet you "men," you show time and time again that you are little boys with no manners.

I never even blink when I get yet another door smashed in my face from an oblivious guy in front of me. I never even gasp in shock hearing a side conversation from a bro talking to another bro about a girl he "smashed" over the weekend and about how "pathetic" she is for trying to text him. These are all insignificant recurrences at ECU.

The only thing that actually matters to these childish boys is what you look like and if you're hot enough to make their friends jealous. Washington Monthly said recently, "It seems like women are judged more harshly than ever on the basis of physical appearance." How right they are. In college, it seems like appearance is sometimes the most important aspect of a person, and that stems directly with how girls are treated by guys.

Because of this, women at this university are more competitive with each other, we constantly feel like we aren't good enough, we have self-esteem issues, and, most importantly, we grow so accustomed to this treatment that we actually think the delusional thought that guys everywhere are like this.

Well, let me be the one to say this. Women, for many of you, this is not how you should be treated; and for many of you, this is not the place to meet your husband. Wait until you move away from here to a place not surrounded by this pit of guys, so you can see how a woman really should be treated.

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

## Scribbles to the Captain

The East Carolinian welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and daytime phone number and must be signed (except those sent by e-mail). 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  
E-mail: [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com)

Dear Editor,

In response to your recent Op-Ed column, "Teachers Wanted: true or false?" I wanted to take this opportunity to assure you that the College of Education does not seek to "hood-wink" anyone with "flighty figures" or "false advertising." In fact, in the following paragraphs, I hope to assure you that, indeed, North Carolina needs teachers.

I applaud your efforts to do a little research. However, you failed to dig deeper within the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website to gain a true picture of the teacher shortage in our state. Granted, school systems have faced extreme cuts, which have resulted in cuts in staff. As a result, class sizes in many districts have been increased. Indeed, this is very

troubling. However, when reporting your information about cuts, "staff" can include teacher assistants and other school personnel beyond teachers. In addition, schools are funded with local, state and federal funding streams. School systems may elect to reduce class size by using local or federal dollars...

In layman's terms, this means that they constitute "extra" staff. Cuts to these individuals who are locally and federally funded often are severed first when such sources dry up. Without a specific reference of which report from the NCDPI website that you quoted in your column, it is hard to verify the information you shared...

The most recent teacher vacancy report, also available on the NCDPI website, indicates that while there was a dip in vacancies in 2009

as from previously reported years, the most recent report for 2010 vacancies indicated an increase in vacancies with the highest-need areas for teachers being in special education, and middle and high school mathematics and science...

As of March 20, listed on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website under job listings for the current semester, 277 licensed positions are listed with 191 being teachers needed for classrooms...

What is also interesting about your opinion is your calculation of what the starting salary of teachers is in North Carolina. The current teacher salary scale is also available on the NCDPI website. The beginning salary for a teacher is \$30,430. Teachers are employed for 10 months. The salary per hour for a 40-hour

> LETTER page A5

## WEB POLL

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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](mailto: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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**RANTS CONT.**

**LETTER** continued from **A4**

Pirate Rants Cont., well that makes my day.

WANTED. Middle aged black man with sass.

It's been three days since St. Patty's Day and I'm still getting "are you ok?" texts from friends.

Yes, my blackout alter-ego is Papa Burgundy.

I hate disappointing just one person. And I really hate disappointing everyone. But I love Burlington Coat Factory. You go in there with 645 dollars, you are literally a king. - Michael Scott

Suns out, guns out!

Any day we beat NC State is a good day. Arrrgh!

Yes, I have a 4.0 and I'm not prescribed Adderall. Get on my level.

If you haven't graded anything in 2 months, then why should I have to come to class every day?

It might just be me, but I've NEVER seen a skateboarder land a "trick" while on campus.

Registration <<<<<<<

I'm on a ranting rampage. ARGGGGGGGGHHHHH!

Isn't anyone else grossed out by the yellow water from the rain?

Tailgating the baseball games is fun, but it still doesn't compare to football season.

I'm thinking about hiring Sean Payton to run a bounty program for my house. Hipsters and cats are on the top of the list.

Pirate Nurses rock at saving some booty!

Holy, one and a half page rants!

work week would be \$19.02, based on 10-month employment. Certainly, given the valuable work teachers do each and every day, it is unfortunate that they may not make as much per hour as your "stripper" friends.

While it is your opinion that North Carolina doesn't need teachers, the facts speak otherwise. The UNC General Administration mandates the College of Education at ECU to meet production targets to fill classrooms. Such mandates are based on careful analysis of the data at the system level and within our college.

Without attention to the facts, it may seem that there isn't a need for teachers in our state. However, I

would ask that you consult with the exceptional child whose classroom doesn't have a teacher who can attend to her or his special needs. I challenge you to talk to a high school student whose math class is taught by a permanent substitute because the county can't find a certified math teacher to teach his or her class. Talk to a personnel director in rural eastern North Carolina about how difficult it is to make sure every classroom in the district has a teacher each fall. I urge you to pick up the phone and contact the College of Education, the NC Department of Public Instruction, or UNC General Administration to check your facts lest you

be accused of sharing false information.

So, Mr. Cochran, to answer your question, yes, North Carolina needs teachers.

Sincerely,

*Laura Bilbro-Berry*

Laura Bilbro-Berry

Assistant Director of Teacher Education

Note: This is an abridged version. The unabridged version can be found online at [www.TheEast-Carolinian.com](http://www.TheEast-Carolinian.com).

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## HOROSCOPES

### Aries (March 21 -April 19)

You're facing a bad problem today — one that could drive you nuts if you're not careful. See if you can get help from a dear friend or stalwart colleague, and you can almost certainly beat it soon.



### Taurus (April 20 -May 20)

Today is perfect for getting others to see things your way — but only if you're taking risks or going for big, seemingly crazy goals. Don't be shy about looking like a nut, as that's how things get done right now.



### Gemini (May 21 -June 20)

You are almost desperate for a change today — so make sure that you're doing what you can to bring it to life. If you don't know what you want, focus your intention and see what happens.



### Cancer (June 21 -July 22)

Your energy is good, but your focus is rather loose. It's one of those days when you need to let your mood be your guide; things are sure to get more interesting as long as you're true to yourself.



### Leo (July 23 -August 22)

Go see a gallery show or take a walk somewhere pretty — you need to absorb some beauty before you can digest some of the crazy, philosophical ideas that are bubbling up from somewhere deep.



### Virgo (August 23 -Sep 22)

It's important that you keep from focusing too much energy on others today — it's far too easy to come off as critical, and almost nobody can handle that right now. Focus on your own projects instead.



### Libra (Sep 23 -Oct 22)

You've got too much stuff going on today — so pare back a bit and just try to take care of the bare essentials. Work may intervene with some new crisis, but you can take care of it in style.



### Scorpio (Oct 23 -Nov 21)

You need to explore some creative answers to old problems — things just aren't going to fix themselves. It's a good time for you to try things you'd never consider otherwise. Try anything!



### Sagittarius (Nov 22 -Dec 21)

You may find that things are a little more interesting today, thanks to a new story that pops up to fit the information you have. It may be a metaphor, but it's powerful and makes sense to you.



### Capricorn (Dec 22 -Jan 19)

You may find that things are a little more interesting today, thanks to a new story that pops up to fit the information you have. It may be a metaphor, but it's powerful and makes sense to you.



### Aquarius (Jan 20 -Feb 18)

You may not feel all that great today, but try to avoid the temptation of retail therapy. It's far too easy for you to blow out your budget, and that could be a disaster if you don't know what you're doing.



### Pisces (Feb 19 -March 20)

Take care of your own needs today — things are moving along well with your people, and you should check in with them, but make sure that any pressing personal desires come first.



These horoscopes are from [www.astrology.com](http://www.astrology.com).

All images are from [MCTcampus.com](http://MCTcampus.com).

# Balancing books and babies

Rex Rose  
STAFF WRITER

In today's television lineup, students can find many programs about motherhood. Ranging from "Teen Mom" and "16 and Pregnant" to "Toddlers and Tiaras" and "Dance Moms," these reality television shows are far from the daily reality of most moms, especially here at ECU.

A majority of these shows depict crazed women living vicariously through their children, and at the same time acting less mature than their 8-year-olds, while other programs consistently show teens not stepping up to the challenge of motherhood. However, these are not accurate portrayals of all mothers.

For most young women, school is priority, but for a select few, the chaotic bustle of college and the energy-draining task of raising a child intersect. These women find themselves balancing the identity and responsibilities of both student and mom.

Rhonda Baker, 37, who graduated for the first time in 1997 with a degree in child development and family relations, has returned to obtain a degree in social work. While noting that the online portion of classes is different, she also faces another challenge this go around: raising her 8-year-old son, Sklyer.

"The most difficult thing is balancing being a mom and being a student," said Baker. "The hardest thing is having to choose between Sklyer and homework."

Baker also said that her second time here at ECU comes with a lot more responsibilities and differences, but she also is not without the skills to handle this new challenge.

"It is very different in the fact that my time management skills are better," said Baker. "I am better prepared for what I have to do."

She explained that she finds it easier to focus this time around, and she hopes to use this new focus to go on to obtain a master's degree in counseling. She intends to work as a child or family counselor.

Another young woman who knows all too well about the challenges associated with

having a child and working towards a degree is Sunia Bryers, a 19-year-old freshman.

"It is hard to talk about your kid and not miss him, especially the distance," said Bryers. "I'm four to five hours away from my kid. You miss them a lot but school keeps you busy."

Bryers learned about the importance of an education and what it will mean for her and her son, Keeton, from her mother.

"My mom was a teen parent, so she understood the hardships and her parents asked her to go to school and she decided that she didn't want to," said Bryers. "Now, 30 years down the road, she realizes that she regretted that decision."

Bryers' mother instructed her, after she was accepted to her hometown college of UNC-Charlotte, to not stay in Charlotte but to follow her heart and not let her son hold her back.

Bryers sees her education as a chance to better her son's life.

"I have to set a precedent for my child; I have to show him that they can do it to," said Bryers. "You have to think about what you are going to do for your child in the future."

Bryers has been setting this precedent ever since she had in high school. She took her care, never lightened her advisors told her she should, to help pay for her son's Sarah Gamfey, a 24-year-old who commutes from Johnston County where she lives with her husband and baby, the limitations that come with being a young mother and student.

Not to say that she doesn't understand the responsibility of being a mother, but instead of accepting limitations, she accepts the challenges that those limitations bring.

For example, her dad was in the hospital recovering from a liver transplant just a week after she found out she was pregnant. However, she did not let any of this interfere with her schoolwork though. "My grades never slipped," said Gamfey.

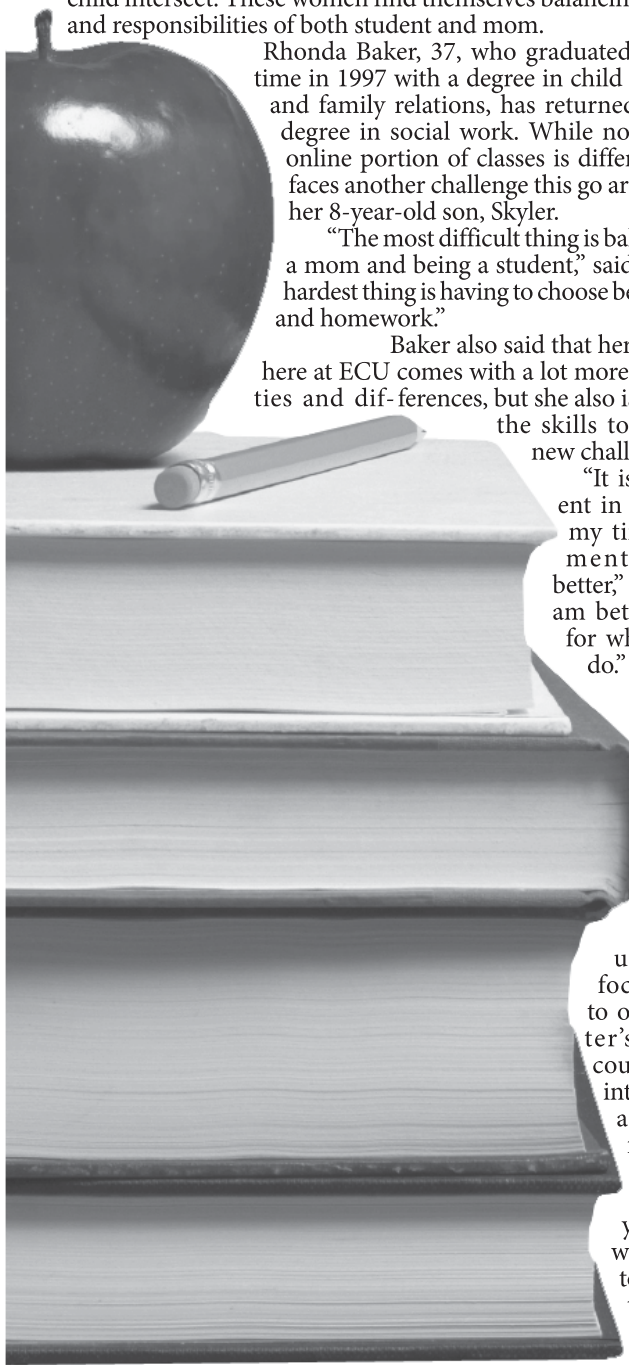
Gamfey went on to say that she once had to drive to ECU from Johnston County, with her 1-week-old, Evelyn, to make a final presentation for a class.

Her family and her husband are a great support system, but it still takes determination on her and every other mother's part to successfully juggle life as a student and as a mother.

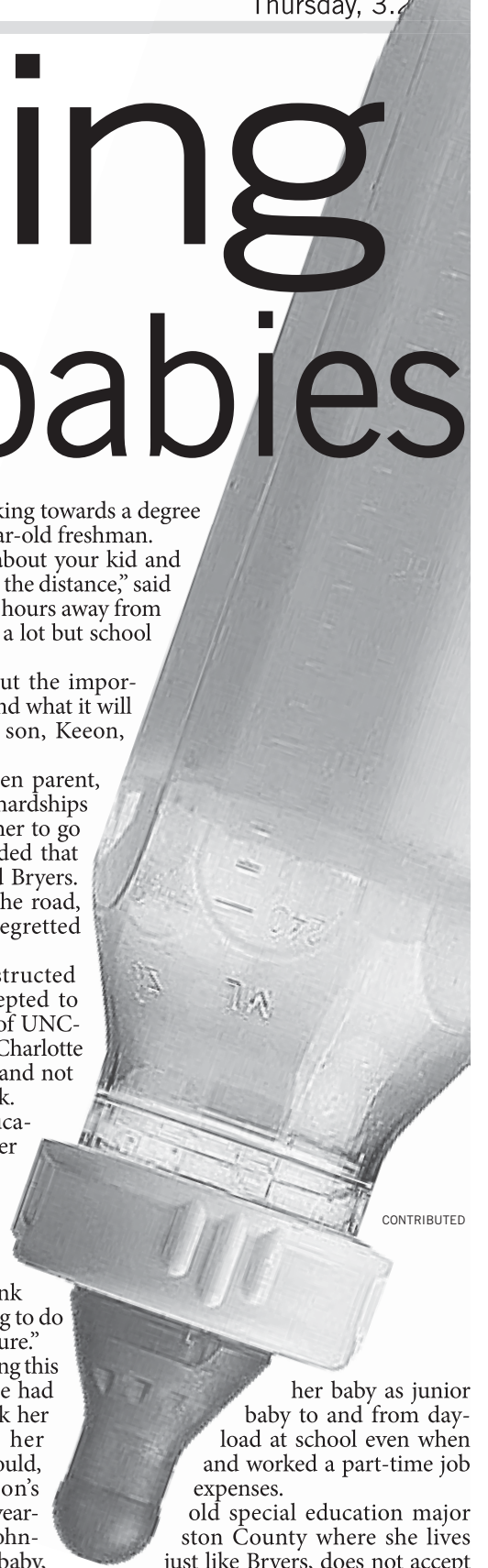
"A lot of people look at the fact that I am a mom and say you can't do that, but I can, I really can," said Gamfey.

While these three women have different ways of dealing with motherhood, they are all successful when it comes to balancing books and babies.

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



CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED



JOHN DAVIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students Sunia Bryers (left) and Rhonda Baker (right) juggle being mothers with schoolwork.



JOHN DAVIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sarah Gamfey is a mother working towards her degree.

## BUCCANEER BULLETIN

Thurs.,  
Mar. 22

Tipsy Teapot will host Lonnie Walker, Royal Baths Lila Shadows and Airstrip hosted by Spazzfest 8 p.m.

Fri.,  
Mar. 23

Jazz with TomTheJazzMan at the Hilton Hotel 8 p.m.- 11 p.m.

Sat.,  
Mar. 24

School of Music Flute Symposium Gala Concert at Fletcher Recital Hall 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sun.,  
Mar 25

Spazzfest Brunch Buffet Special at Tipsy Teapot 11a.m.

Sun. cont.

12th annual Canine Crawl at the Greenville Town Common 12 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Tues.,  
Mar. 27:

ECISO's Hunt for a Cure outside the Rivers building 5 p.m.

Know of some awesome events coming up? Let Lifestyles know! Email [lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:lifestyles@theeastcarolinian.com) and put "Buccaneer Bulletin" in the subject bar.

# 10 tips for soon-to-be college graduates

**TJ Weaver**  
STAFF WRITER

For many, graduation will be a time for celebration, tears and reminiscing. On May 4, thousands of Pirates will walk across their respective stages and shake hands with their department's chairman, signifying their completion of a degree. However, treacherous waters lie ahead for these soon-to-be graduates since success is difficult in today's struggling economy.

Here are 10 things students can do to prepare for life after graduation:

## 1. Organize resume

Take time to put together an impressive resume. In today's competitive market, a well-constructed resume communicates a lot about the applicant. According to Nadirah Phippen, career counselor for ECU's Career Center, unless the application requests a GPA, one has the option of leaving it on or off.

"With GPA, a lot of students feel confident, but others don't. The determining factor is usually not the GPA, but instead, it's the degree; however, if it says they want the GPA on the application, then you need to put it on there," said Phippen. "Only list GPA if it's a 3.0 or higher."

## 2. Create a budget

Make sure to save receipts and track all expenses, especially in the first year of independency. This way one can cut back on luxuries and put more money into necessities. A Netflix account and several weeks of take-out can put quite a dent in the bank account.

## 3. Seriously consider graduate school

Have a specific reason for applying to graduate school. With many graduate curriculums requiring a grade of a "B" or "C" in each class to continue, if one's not serious, then one need not apply.

"Some have a clear-cut path, and others don't have that path; they're not quite sure what they want to do with that degree," said Phippen. "If you're deeply interested in that course of study then it's a good idea. If you're trying to just delay the entry into the real world, then it's not a good idea."

## 4. Start establishing credit

Having good credit is like holding a golden ticket. Great financial discipline will pay off later in life when applying for home mortgage, car loans or credit cards.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | LACEY SCHWAB | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Matt Pritchett, Johnny Tramontin and Caitie Janicki are soon-to-be grads.

First, pay down any existing debt, stay on top of bills and, most importantly, have discipline. Get in a habit of carrying cash instead of plastic.

## 5. Don't rule out returning home

According to a 2011 survey conducted by consulting firm Twenty-something Inc., 85 percent of graduates return home. There's nothing wrong with going back home; in fact, it's a way to help pay off student loans. However, students should have future goals of eventually moving back out.

"Recent graduates must have a plan of action and a time plan so

they can work towards their goals of moving out," said Phippen. "Also, they should share this plan with family, so then they can be held accountable."

## 6. Get educated on health insurance

On March 23, 2010, President Barak Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law. Among its many benefits, the law allows students to remain on their parents' health insurance plan until age 26. Students should make sure they are covered.

## 7. Look for internships

Internships not only look great on a resume, but also provide the chance to make connections within one's career field and to move up in a company.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers completed a survey in 2011 revealing that 67 percent of recent graduates were offered a job upon the completion of their internship.

## 8. Choose the right city

According to Phippen, before moving to a new city, one should consider both the cost of living and moving expenses. The Career Center compiled a Cost of Living Index, which can be found in the Career Success Guide located online. The index is based on the composite price of groceries, housing, utilities, transportation and much more for each major city where graduating students receive the most offers.

## 9. Save money or pay debt?

Each graduate has his or her own financial responsibilities. Some graduate with no debt, while others had no choice but to pay their way through. Sit down, consider all expenses and create a thorough plan.

"It depends on what they're making on their first job, but some don't have enough to do both," said Phippen. "Don't neglect debt in order to save money, and make sure you make enough to save and reduce debt."

## 10. Be prepared

Most importantly, be prepared for anything that may come. If need be, take a couple months off after graduation to evaluate life goals. Open to all students, ECU's Career Center is a great place to get advice about careers, resumes and planning.

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

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## Freshman swimmer sets the pace



Rokas Cepulis

**Cameron Stephenson**  
STAFF WRITER

Work ethic and dedication are two qualities that simply cannot be taught. If one wants to reach a goal, a fire must burn in the pit of their stomach that will not allow them to accept anything short of victory.

The ECU swimming and diving team is no stranger to this philosophy, boasting a total of 18 total swimmers to earn All-Conference USA recognition, and the second-highest GPA in the nation for the women's team. Among the 18 to receive all-conference recognition is freshman Rokas Cepulis.

"Rokas will add a spark of youth to a very veteran group and should challenge for the top spot in the breaststroke events," head coach Rick Kobe said at the beginning of the season. Later proving this statement to be accurate, the freshman hailing from Vendelso, Sweden holds two Lithuanian U-15 records for the 200-yard breaststroke and is a member of the U-17 Lithuanian Junior National Relay record-holding team. These, among numerous other accolades before coming to ECU, proved to be an indicator of what was to come this season.

These accolades are most certainly a product of hard work and dedication. "There's nothing easy about doing what we do everyday," Kobe said. From 6 a.m. practices to swimming around eight to nine thousand yards a day, the swimmers and divers of ECU "pay the price," in the words of Kobe, to meet their expectations.

Training under breaststroke coach Keith Dawley, Cepulis enjoyed many victories this season as a result of his dedication and, judging by this year's successful season, had a very positive effect on the performance of his team as well, which finished third overall in the C-USA Championship. "He's just got a great attitude; I mean, he is always smiling," said Kobe.

Coupled with dedication, Cepulis' great passion for his sport has also played a huge part in his success. Described by his teammates and coaches as having a "youthful attitude," Cepulis has emerged as a leader on his team. He has also accumulated all-conference honors in five separate events, and at the beginning of the season set a new school record in the 200-yard breaststroke.

Coaches, as well as his teammates, are very excited about what the future has in store for Cepulis. Kobe said that he and the coaching staff see him making "The Big Dance," or the National Championship, next year. Kobe went on to say that Cepulis also has a great shot to represent his country in the 2012 Olympics. Although Cepulis has an astonishing resume right now, he may have some stiff competition coming in for next season.

"We'll probably have about 20 freshmen next year, and as good as this year's freshman class was, (they) will rival them," said Kobe about the incoming freshmen swimmers. "They could even be faster." For Cepulis and his very talented group of teammates, this can only be beneficial, as it will add competition in practices, ultimately bettering every member of the team.

The futures of both Cepulis and all of the Pirate swimmers look very bright, and the ECU swimming and diving coaches, as well as the university, are certainly excited about what is to become of them all.

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

# Pirates beat Pack



## Fall to Panthers

DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Drew Reynolds (7) earned a save against the No. 11 Wolfpack in a 6-5 win on Tuesday and continued his nine-game hit streak on Wednesday at High Point.

**Stephen McNulty**  
OPINION EDITOR

ECU (15-5) rallied from an early deficit to defeat N.C. State (15-5) on Tuesday, before falling to High Point (14-9) at Williard Stadium 10-2 last night.

You never quite know what to expect when the Pirates meet the Wolfpack. But one thing is for sure — there will always be a flair for the dramatic.

Danny Canela sent a two-out pitch in the top of the ninth high into the sky, momentarily sucking the breathe out of the season-high 4,714 strong at Clark-Leclair Stadium late Tuesday night. But Canela got a little too much under it, and Jay Cannon settled under the ball to capture the final out and a 6-5 Pirate victory.

"One-run game, but I liked the way it ended this time," said head coach Billy Godwin. "We've lost a lot of one-run games to them."

Six to be exact. Since Godwin's first full season at the helm in 2006, the Pirates are 4-8 against the Wolfpack, including Tuesday night's victory. Coming into the matchup, the Pack had taken the last two meetings, both by two runs. The Pirates swept N.C. State handily in 2009, but before that, Godwin was one for six against the red team from Raleigh, with each game being decided by one run, and three of them going into extras.

ECU entered the game following a three-game sweep of Penn State and N.C. State rode a six-game win streak and victories in 10 of their last 11.

Freshmen Jeff Hoffman, making his first career start, seemed calm, cool and collected with a one, two,

three, first inning. Until, that is, a leadoff double to start the second inning, followed by an RBI single and a two-run home run by the Pack's Ryan Mathews put N.C. State up 3-0 early.

But in typical ECU-N.C. State fashion, the teams went blow for blow, tick for tack.

In the bottom half of the third inning, the Pirates answered with an RBI single from John Wooten to get on the board. Drew Reynolds followed up with a two-run double to the warning track and Clark continued the rally with an RBI single to put the Pirates up 4-3.

Blow for blow, N.C. State answered with a run in the fifth. Trea Turner, who leads the nation in stealing with 21 swipes, stole second, advanced to third on a close play at first, and then scored on a hit that ricocheted off of Hoffman, tying everything back up.

And, tick for tack, the Pirates fought back in the bottom half of the sixth.

Andy Smithmyer took over for Hoffman to start the sixth, and finished the night with three scoreless innings and five strikeouts.

"I thought my fastball was great today. It had good life on it, and then my slider is my out pitch," Smithmyer said.

And great stuff he had indeed. In the top of the eighth, the JUCO transfer struck out the side, sitting the five-, six- and seven-hole hitters down in order.

As if it wasn't dramatic enough that Reynolds, the Pirates designated hitter who had two RBIs in the game, took the mound to close the game, then the matter in which it ended sure was.

After retiring the first batter, Reynolds allowed two men on. A chopper to short looked to be the game-ending double play, but the ball got away from Wooten at first, scoring Turner and cutting the lead to just one. And in classic, Pirate vs. Pack fashion, it came down to the last loud ding of the bat.

"Drew Reynolds is two things," said Godwin. "One, he's a baseball player, and two, he's a competitor and he lives for situations like that."

Reynolds notched his Conference USA-leading seventh save and Smithmyer improved to 2-0 on the season.

With two mid-week games this week and conference play starting on Friday, it was important for the Pirates to get the win.

"It's always a big deal to get the first win of the week to get your wheels rolling and keep the momentum," Clark said. "And we're going to keep it rolling."

Fielding issues plagued the Pirates again versus High Point. ECU committed four errors and allowed 12 hits on the night. Only seven of the 12 runs were earned and nine different pitchers took the mound for the Pirates.

Austin Chrismon (0-2) took the loss for the Pirates, allowing one run in the opening frame and giving up three runs before recording an out in the second.

On a positive note, Reynolds extended his hit streak to nine games.

The Pirates open up conference play tomorrow with a three-game series against Central Florida (16-5).

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

## Men's hoops heads in right direction



**Justin Ackley**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

With no postseason appearance this season and a continuing drought in the NCAA tournament, a lot of pressure will remain on the shoulders of men's basketball head coach Jeff Lebo.

The pressure comes with the post and is fully understood by most who accept the challenge. The ultimate goal for any coach is to bring success, prestige and pride to his or her program.

Well, after two full seasons at the helm, how does Lebo stack up against the field?

Since joining ECU, Lebo has compiled a 33-32 record, which includes going 13-19 in C-USA. The team has also gone 3-2 in the C-USA tournament reaching the semifinals last season. The overall record is what really stands out here. Before Lebo moved to Greenville, ECU had won only 40 games in the previous four seasons, which was highlighted by a 13-17 record for the 2008-2009 season. ECU was 40-81 during that span. In his first season, Lebo was able to lead the Pirates to 18 wins and a postseason appearance. In comparison, there were 29 coaches that took over new teams in 2011-2012, posting an average record of 17-15. This crop included Frank Haith of Missouri (30-5) and Steve Prohm of Murray State (31-2).

In the win-loss column, there is no question that ECU took a step back this year. However, there are noticeable improvements that can be taken into account. In 2011-2012, ESPN had ECU with a BPI ranking of 134 out of 344 teams in the country. Obviously, a 134th-ranked team is not something to boast about, but it sure is a lot better than some people give this team credit for. Lebo has created a sense of excitement around this team. In 2009-2010, the average home attendance was 3,750, while this year saw an average of 4,801. The team is at the very least getting more exciting to watch and people are starting to notice.

From a statistical standpoint, ECU still stands for much improvement. There are some changes that can be noted looking at the team rankings in comparison to the 2009-2010 season. The team's scoring average per game has gone from 67.2 (211) to 68.9 (151), while assists per game have moved from 11.8 (250) to 14.6 (52). The above changes mean good things as long as the team can put up a defensive battle, but must also improve on rebounds per game and field goal percentage in which there hasn't been much of a change. Rebounds per game have actually gotten worse moving from 35.6 (152) to 34.3 (185). The team's field goal percentage in 2009-2010 was 43.7 percent and ranked 161st, while this year, it was 43.6 percent and ranked 158th, showing virtually no change.

Any number can be pulled to show that Lebo is doing a great job or that he is doing an awful job. However, there is no question that

## Rolling strong into conference play



DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A youthful pitching staff has been the highlight of the Pirates' 2012 campaign.



**Adam Bunn**  
OPINION COLUMNIST

In the Eastern part of North Carolina, football is normally king.

But quickly, this year's edition of the Diamond Bucs is taking some of the spotlight away from year three of the Ruffin McNeill era.

With the football team winning back-to-back Conference USA titles, most spectators of the Purple and Gold have only given ECU baseball a casual glance. How times are a-changing.

With the football program struggling to rebuild and the basketball program mired in 19 years of constant underachievement, the baseball program has become the bright spot in an overall unimpressive athletic department during the 2011-2012 sports season.

With a 15-4 record heading into their first conference matchup of the year this weekend, the Pirates look poised to make another run to regionals.

Entering the season, most observers expected a slow start from a pitching staff that returned just one of the top-three starters and lost valuable arms out of the bullpen.

However, the pitching staff has started far from slow and through the non-conference schedule looks stronger than last year's staff. Kevin Brandt has lived up to his billing as the top ace on the staff and Virgin Islands product Jharel Cotton has not been spectacular, but has been steady in his Sunday-starter role.

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this team is better off now than when Lebo accepted the job before the 2010-2011 season. Continued improvement is a must for this program to be legitimized in this basketball-hungry state, which would be a great feeling for others and myself, who actually take some pride in wearing the Purple and Gold in Greenville. Is this team a NCAA tournament contender right now? Looking at the numbers and comparing talent pools to those ACC members down the road, most people would

probably say no. This program is in good hands with Lebo and has a chance to do things that ECU basketball hasn't witnessed in quite a long time. Maybe it's too early to be optimistic about this program or I'm blinded by the Purple and Gold, but either way, I won't be left in shock when this team starts moving.

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



Head basketball coach Jeff Lebo in action against Marshall.

**STRONG** continued from A8

But while Brandt gets most of the glory in the press, he has not been the most impressive Pirate pitcher early on. That distinction goes to Tyler Joyner, who has come out of nowhere to challenge Brandt for ace status.

But just like every situation in sports, the good always has a bad side, and for ECU baseball, that bad side is dangerous.

Errors are the worst stat any team can accumulate and, so far during the 2012 season, ECU has collected a large amount. Between 19 games, the Pirates have totaled 22 errors with shortstop Jack Reinheimer leading the team and the conference with 10 errors. But it's not just the errors that have hurt the Pirates defensively. Throughout the season, the outfield play has been something of a spectacle. Routinely, a Pirate outfielder will take a bad route to the ball or take a few steps in, leaving himself scrambling backward in an attempt to save himself from the embarrassment of having the ball fly over his head.

The defensive problems go back to fundamentals. Following Sunday's win against Penn State, when the Pirates committed four errors, head coach Billy Godwin said that his team plays better defense than what was shown. But being

in attendance for all but five games this season, I don't see where the defense is better than that.

Of course I understand that Godwin isn't going to come out and bash his players in the media. No matter anyone's opinion of him, he treats his players like family and refuses to bash them in public, so defending his team doesn't surprise anyone. What would surprise me is if he actually believes it. I truly hope everyone involved understands that sometimes, great teams have weak areas and they focus on what needs to be done to fix the problem

instead of acting like it doesn't exist.

It's always easier to point out the negative aspects of a team because those are the most glaring. Just watch any postgame press conference with a head coach and typically, the first sentence out of their mouth is what they could have done better. However, the weakness of this team is fixable and I believe shouldn't keep them from getting where they want to be.

Now, will this team reach Omaha and the College World Series? That is yet to be determined. People must realize that they are

still just 19 games into a long regular season and things, both good and bad, can happen from now until the end of the conference tournament.

This is not the best team Godwin has had since he's been in charge of Pirate baseball, and the long season and grueling postseason schedule always claims a few top-tier teams earlier than expected.

But despite what ends up happening in the postseason, ECU baseball has given Pirate Nation something to cheer about.

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



Phillip Clark (18) drove in two runs against the Wolfpack on Tuesday night.

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WALK TO CLASS: 2 blocks from campus. 300 South Jarvis Street, across from Christy's Euro Pub, a 2BR house with hardwood floors and central heat/air. How about your own house with a yard (some dogs OK), a large bedroom and be able to walk to campus, downtown, the Rec Center, etc. Basic cable, high speed Internet, washer/dryer, lawn care all included. Call 252-916-5680.

2BR/2BA. Excellent condition. 222-B Wyndham Circle. Available June 1st. \$600/month. Call 252-355-6339.

1 block from ECU and 1 block from downtown: a 1 bedroom apartment that's clean, quiet, and efficient. \$395/month. Some pets OK. Call 252-714-3294.

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**River Banks Apartments. River front 1BR apartment with wood floors, low energy cost, free water & sewer, and Internet. \$475/month. Call 252-364-1476.**

**WALK TO CLASS - 1 BLOCK.** 2BR/1.5BA quadplex. "Buccaneer Village" (507 E. 11th Street). Save money, no ECU parking fees to pay. Includes kitchen appliances, dishwasher, and washer/dryer. \$525/month. Call Pinnacle Mgmt. at 252-561-RENT(7368).

**3BR/3BA** spacious condo at 320 Brownlea Drive. You choose your rent amount. \$900/month includes water. \$1325/month gets you cable, Internet, lights, and water. On ECU bus route or walk to class. Bring your own roommates, we do not match. Call Pinnacle Mgmt. at 252-561-RENT(7368).

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Looking for an affordable solution to your roommate problems? Check out these great locations convenient to ECU: Ridge Pointe 1BR \$300, 2BR \$395 water/sewer included. Village Quarters 1BR \$350 includes water/sewer and washer/dryer. Contact Wainright Property Management at 252-756-6209 or www.rentinggreenville.com

**PIRATEPLACES.COM!!!** It's time again to start reserving your house across from ECU for next year. We have the best and closest houses next to ECU and we will be signing new leases now for rentals starting in June, July and August. Every year these houses are rented quickly so don't miss out and go to **PIRATEPLACES.COM** today and let us know which house you are interested in before they're all gone. **PIRATEPLACES.COM**

**Early-leasing: blocks to ECU, wide selection of quality homes, includes all appliances, and central heat/AC. Leases begin June, July, or August. See at www.collegeuniversityrentals.com or call 252-321-4712.**

ECU student duplexes on bus route or walk to class! Duplexes at Wyndham Circle. 2 bedroom, 2 full bath. Newly decorated, cathedral ceilings, great landlord, great price, big backyard, good parking, some pets OK, patios for grilling. Available June 1, July 1, and August 1. \$620/month. Call 252-321-4802.

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Female sublesser wanted for May - July at Pirates Cove. 4BR/4BA. For more details, call 910-249-0699.

Roommate needed for August. 2-3BR duplex within walking distance to campus. Utilities (varies). Cable/Internet (\$50). Rent (\$375). Call 919-593-7855.

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**Babysitter Needed.** Approximately 20-25 hours/week daytime hours June-August to watch 3 girls. Non-smoker with car required. Must be energetic, fun, responsible, and like to swim. Will play with and supervise kids, chauffeur them to activities and do light housework. Competitive pay. Email nccrawfords5@gmail.com with

resume and/or experience by March 25th.

Motel night desk clerk needed 2-3 nights a week 10:00pm to 5:45am. Computer experience required. If interested, please call 252-754-8047 or 252-412-9315.

**PART-TIME HELP NEEDED.** Flexible with classes. Great resume builder. All-majors considered. Internships possible depending on major, & scholarships possible based on performance. Customer sales/service. No experience necessary. Call 252-215-5633 or apply online at WORKINGGREENVILLE.com for info and to schedule an interview.

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Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth baseball umpires and scorekeepers for the Spring baseball program for ages 4-8. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of baseball rules and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: umpiring, scorekeeping, setting up for practices and games, and ensuring proper care of program/facility. Hours are from 4:30pm to 8:00pm, Monday to Friday, and Saturday mornings and afternoons. Hours are flexible according to class schedules. This program will run from April 21 through mid June. Umpires and scorekeepers will be paid \$8.00 an hour. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 252-329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10am until 7pm. To apply, please go to the following website: <http://www.greenvillenc.gov/>

Volunteers are needed for Easter Seals UCP's "Camp Tuscarora" on Saturday, May 12 from 10:00am to 3:00pm in Winterville and on Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20 in Salter Path. For more information, call 252-756-6533 or email ALLSBROOKL07@students.ecu.edu

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ΔΤ and ΤΚΑ 2nd Annual Ron-A-Thon 5K/Carnival benefiting the Ronald McDonald House is Saturday, March 24th at 1:00pm. Race starts at Chico's. Registration on [www.FSSERIES.com](http://www.FSSERIES.com) (\$15 with discount code "student").

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