



Behind the band: Jupiter Jones A4.

BRIEFS

Staff Reports

'Back to Basics' legislation approved

The "Back to Basics" bill that will make cursive handwriting a requirement in the state's public elementary schools has been approved by the North Carolina legislature.

ECU Professor Denise Donica, a certified handwriting specialist, has been vocal about her support of the bill. Her research shows that handwriting is connected to a variety of other skills. She compared the skill to mathematics that is still taught in schools although most people can use a calculator in this age.

Opposition to the bill has cited a legislative overreach into state curriculum's, which was recently changed under the common core adaptation.

Several arrests made in relation to shootings

The Greenville Police department has arrested three individuals involved in shootings in the last week.

Koki Kinte Purvis was shot May 23 at 8:30 p.m. on the corner of Hooker and Greenville Blvd. Two men were apprehended for the crime: Christopher Hardy and Darien Cunningham. The two have been charged with assault with a deadly weapon, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, and robbery with a dangerous weapon. Both are held under a \$300,000 bond.

On April 27 at 1 a.m. a woman was shot in her vehicle in the parking lot of Sheraton Village Apartments on Landmark Street. On May 29 detectives arrested Tre'von Morgan and charged him with felony conspiracy. He is jailed under a \$1,000,000 secured bond.

Dog Wash to benefit Humane Society

On June 15th the Humane Society of Eastern Carolina will be hosting a dog wash to raise funds.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Shell Rapid Lube & Auto Spa, 1625 E Fire Tower Rd. The Fluff and Puff Dog Wash will help benefit the HSEC, a no-kill facility.



The East Carolinian

Volume 87, Issue 176

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 6.5.13



NICK FAULKNER / THE EAST CAROLINIAN

UNC proposed a plan for student housing to offer an option of opposite sex housing assignments, to help accommodate students of the LGBTQ community.

Opposite sex housing bill

New legislation opposes gender-neutral student living

Jamitress Bowden
STAFF WRITER

A bill in the hands of the North Carolina lawmakers could prevent an opposite-sex housing option for students in the UNC-System schools.

The legislation was reintroduced to legislators, within a budget approval. This comes months after students, faculty and staff at University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill received a unanimous approval from their Board of Trustees. As it stands now, the legislation would put different stipulations on the opposite-sex housing than UNC originally sought after. Currently, the opposite-sex housing option would only apply to students that are siblings, legally married students or parent and child.

The option for an opposite-sex housing assignment was, at the beginning, to help make students of the LGBTQ community at Chapel Hill feel more comfortable while living on campus. The students would volunteer to participate in the program and live in a specific

> HOUSING page A2

NEW CONFERENCE LOGO



COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS

AAC logo unveiled

The American Athletic Conference, previously known as the Big East, debuted its new logo and marks last Thursday. The logo—a simple athletic letter "A" in red, white and blue—can be customized with each institution's colors.

The American Athletic Conference will assume its new name on July 1 when it will also launch the full version of its website at: www.TheAmerican.org.

East Carolina will become a member of the AAC beginning with the 2014–15 academic year.

McNeill granted contract extension



WEB PHOTO

Students are encouraged to ask salary information in interviews.

Craig Barnes
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

East Carolina University and Head Football Coach Ruffin McNeill have agreed to a three-year contract extension.

"I am both excited and humbled to be in this privileged position as the head football coach at East Carolina," McNeill said. "There's a lot of work ahead of us, but knowing our administrative leadership team shares and supports our commitment and vision for the future will allow the progress we've made in all phases of our program to continue."

The extension, approved by the University's Board of Trustees, secures McNeill's position as head

coach through June 30, 2018. McNeill will receive an annual compensation package of \$1.15 million with opportunities to earn additional incentives including but not limited to bowl appearances, conference championships and academic progress.

"I'm touched and appreciative by this measure of confidence and we're certainly looking forward to the opportunity of consistently competing at a championship level on and off the field," said McNeill.

McNeill took over the helm as head coach on Jan. 21, 2010 and has helped guide the Pirates to two bowl appearances in his three-year stint. With the Pirates transitioning from Conference-USA to the new American Athletic Conference, locking up McNeill shows recruits as well as fans that the school and athletic department believes in McNeill and his vision for the football program.

"After this season, we will be transitioning from Conference USA into the new American Athletic Conference. This presents many challenges as well as opportunities and I firmly believe that having continuity and stability in our head coach position will help to ensure our short-term and long-term success," said Athletic Director Jeff Compher.

McNeill has been a great addi-

> MCNEILL page A2

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ECU student Braxton Horton.

Student found dead in Pamlico Co.

Staff Report

Student Braxton Horton drowned Sunday afternoon at Pine Knoll Shores when he was swept under by a rip current.

Horton, a biology major, was working as a sailing instructor at Camp Seagull, a YMCA sailing camp for boys in the Pamlico County town of Arapahoe, at the

time of his drowning.

According to the Pine Knoll Shores Mayor Ken Jones, the body of 19-year-old Raleigh-native Horton was found around 7 p.m. Sunday about 200 yards east from where he was last seen. In a press conference, Mayor Jones says a man walking his dog found the body.

Horton had just completed his first year at East Carolina and started working at Camp Seagull in May. Local police forces said during a press release that he was swimming with four other Camp Seagull co-workers when he was in the water but were not present at the shore as part of the camp.

HOUSING continued from A1

residence hall. Participating students would only share a living space with others of the opposite-sex. This arrangement would only take place in apartment or suite style arrangements. In the individual rooms, students must be of the same sex.

Aaron Lucier, Director of university housing operations at ECU, said that any changes that happen within campus living here are feasible with planning.

At ECU, the housing

department does not have a specific residence hall for students to participate in a form of opposite-sex assignments. However, if a student does come forward and identifies himself or herself as transgendered, the situation is handled on a case-by-case basis and "is tailored to what the student needs for their process," according to Lucier.

Lucier said that campus living keeps an eye on the trends and are always reviewing and examining what may

be best for students.

Summer Wisdom, assistant director of the LGBT Resource Office, said changes like this has to come from the students. There have been a limited requests, according to Lucier, directed to campus living in reference to gender neutral housing. Lucier added that they were able to meet the specific needs of those students.

Wisdom said students that visit her office are self-identifying as openly exploring

gender and she thinks that students here are able to be more comfortable with talking about this subject. "Having this office is key in knowing what the needs are," added Wisdom.

Nationally, there are public and private universities that already offer opposite-sex housing options for their students. In North Carolina, Duke University offers this.

"If I could do it all again and could live in gender-neutral housing, I totally

would," said Cody Tenaglia, senior fine arts major with an illustration concentration.

Tenaglia has lived on-campus since his freshman year and says that he overheard people talking, during summer orientation and after the fall semester started, about how they would hate to have a gay roommate because it would "be weird or they would try to hit on them."

"If a person knows that there is a system in place, they might come here and

know they could be safe," said Wisdom in reference to incoming freshman and transfer students.

Tenaglia said that one thing that really made his experience much better was his RA. "She was awesome, she used male pronouns and used my male name for my door decorations and that really helped."

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

MCNEILL continued from A1

tion to the program helping athletes achieve in the classroom as well as on the football field. In the classroom, the team recorded the highest GPA in program history last fall. On the field, McNeill and the Pirates have participated in two bowl appearances and have stayed as a top contender in C-USA.

"This should send a strong message to recruits as well as our season ticket holders that Coach McNeill has our support to guide our program through this important transition [to the American Athletic Conference]," said Compher.

Last season, McNeill led the Pirates to an 8-5

overall record as well as a divisional co-title within C-USA. McNeill's offensive attack provided the Pirates with Top 10 finishes in the nation in offensive redzone efficiency, fourth down conversion percentages and fewest penalties.

"In my short time here at ECU it is apparent that Coach McNeill is building a football program that will continue to be successful on the field as well as in the classroom and in our community," Compher said. "He has embraced the concept of comprehensive excellence."

McNeill returned to his alma mater after a 10-year stint with Texas Tech where

he held a position on the defensive staff. While a player for the Pirates, McNeill was a four-year letter winner and a three-year starter at defensive back.

"I am extremely happy for Coach McNeill, his family, our assistant coaches, and most of all for our student-athletes. This contract extension is well-deserved and signifies an outstanding commitment to Coach McNeill and his continued leadership of our football program," said Compher.

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

Public colleges are often no bargain for the poor

MCT
RENEE SCHOOF

WASHINGTON -- Many public colleges and universities expect their poorest students to pay a third, half or even more of their families' annual incomes each year for college, a new study of college costs has found.

With most American students enrolling in their states' public institutions in hopes of gaining affordable degrees, the new data show that the net price—the full cost of attending college minus scholarships—can be surprisingly high for families that make \$30,000 a year or less.

The numbers track with larger national trends: the growing student-loan debt and decline in college completion among low-income students.

Because of the high net price, "these students are left with little choice but to take on heavy debt loads or engage in activities that lessen their likelihood of earning their degrees, such as working full time while enrolled or dropping out until they can afford to return," Stephen Burd wrote in a recent report for the New America Foundation, a non-partisan group that examines the effects of rising inequality and other trends. The federal government has increased its spending on Pell grants for the neediest students. Still, the high net prices show that the grants go only so far.

Burd, a senior policy analyst for the foundation's education policy program, looked at data that the U.S. Department of Education has required public and private colleges and universities to provide for the past few years. The latest average net price figures are for the 2010-11 school year.

At public institutions, the loss of state financial support and a rise in tuition play a big

part in the trend of higher net prices, Burd said in an interview.

But Burd said school documents showed that "the drive for prestige is very strong as well."

The Pennsylvania State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City were among the most expensive public schools for low-income students. At Penn State, the net price for the lowest income group was \$16,000 to \$18,000 at schools in the statewide system; at UMKC, it was \$16,798.

Officials at both schools said those numbers didn't tell the whole story.

Twenty-eight percent of Penn State's students receive federal Pell grants. Full grants, worth \$5,500 this year, go to low-income families. Partial grants go to people generally with incomes of around \$50,000 or less.

Penn State doesn't admit students based on ability to pay or deliberately offer aid packages that don't meet the need, said Lisa Powers, the director of the school's Department of Public Information. But tuition and state aid are the school's only source of money, she said, and state appropriations last year were the same as they were in 1996, when the school had 15,000 fewer students.

"The fact is, Penn State does not enroll enough 'full pay' students to produce the revenue needed to lower the net price for all low-income students," Powers said, calling the school's scholarship fund "modest at best."

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Jennifer DeHaemers, the associate vice chancellor for student affairs, said the net price data for two years ago were accurate but no longer relevant.

"UMKC recognized several years ago that our net price for the lowest-income students was higher than it should be, and we crafted a new approach," she said.

As of the 2011-12 school year, the school effectively waived tuition costs for full-time students who receive Pell grants and maintain good grades. The result is that the school is moving in the direction of making a college education more affordable for Missouri's poorest students, DeHaemers said.

Penn State and Missouri weren't alone, however, in showing high prices for poor students, according to the latest College Navigator data.

The average net price, for instance, for the lowest-income students was \$15,415 at South Carolina State University; \$11,071 at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C.; and about \$11,000 at the University of Southern Mississippi and at Mississippi State University.

Tuition at public universities in Illinois in the 2010-2011 school year averaged \$10,508 for the state's poorest students, ranging from \$15,065 at Northeastern Illinois University to \$7,432 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

At the same time, some states, including North Carolina, Florida and California, charged low-income students about \$5,000 to \$6,000 on average.

High net prices for the neediest students are most prominent at private non-profit schools. Burd found that nearly two-thirds of the 479 private colleges and universities that he studied charged students from families that made \$30,000 or less a net price of more than \$15,000 a year.

This report was contributed by McClatchy Washington Bureau.

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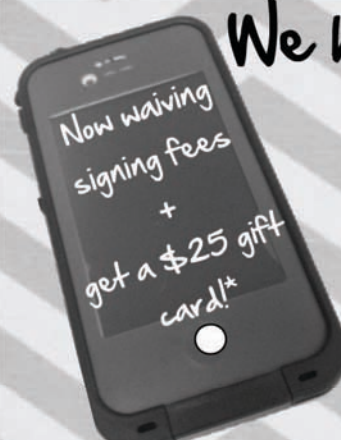
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PIRATE RANTS

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

To the cute girl with the Scooby-Doo lunch box and the nose stud: we should have a summer fling and you can be my naughty nurse.

Men marry because they are tired. Women because they are curious. Both are disappointed.

Getting laid in Greenville during the summer is like going fishing in the middle of the desert.

I am loving the editorials from TEC, I'm actually believing these people might have a brain.

Can we all just agree that nobody likes metal but everyone wants to bang the guy in the bear from last week's paper?

I'm gonna pop some taaaags, got 20 Pirate Bucks in my pockettttt!

Is there a nice way to tell a cute girl that you don't want to talk to her because she smells like hotdog water and afterbirth?

Hangover has a trilogy now. Congrats. If you want to see a season series of people passing out and waking up to mystery every time, I'm your man.

That moment when you realize you study Pirate Rants more than you study your own homework.

Passing Organic Chemistry: did it. Getting a Pirate Rant posted: next to impossible.

You say smoking is bad for my health. I dare you to reach for my cigarette again; I'll show you bad health.

How many days until I can get the hell out of Greenville?

I don't care if you won't have sex with me; you are so handsome, I am glad we are friends.

Screw the people that claim, "I'm not their type." I'm hot, that's all that should matter.

Greenville residents really need to learn how to drive. Turning left on a green light does not mean you have the right away, look before you pull out in front of me.

Arrgh you interested in writing for Opinion?



Contact Jessica Powell at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com for details.

EDITORIAL

Our View

More possibilities for diverse students

The debate has begun regarding North Carolina school systems possibly adopting a more open-minded approach to living situations and gender-specific bathrooms during college years. The debate focuses on people of the opposite sex being able to reside with each other. It also brings up the possibility of transgendered bathrooms in college universities—allowing free and open opportunities for students to feel more comfortable.

We disagree with not allowing males to live with females, or homosexuals not being able to live with heterosexuals. Humans are humans, and the more attention we call to the "heterosexual" and "homosexual" labels, the more

taboo this seems.

If transgender students would prefer to have their own bathroom, we are completely content with this idea. But it would be more inconspicuous, and possibly safer, if a transgendered male goes into a female's bathroom, because they associate with that gender.

It is a disheartening thought that students would be so close-minded to think that living with a transgender or homosexual student would mean that they would be "hit on" by their roommate. College years are designed to gain new experiences and learn about the world around us. It may take some adjustments, but being introduced to people of different backgrounds or beliefs

may create a greater grasp for students on the people around them.

Although we cannot delve into the mind of these transgender and homosexual students, we approve of equality for all. If those students choose not to associate themselves with their original, or intended gender, that is their choice and the university should cater to their wants and needs.

Our staff believes that making every student as comfortable as possible will allow them to successfully make it through their years at ECU, or any university in North Carolina.

The editorial staff can be contacted at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com

Tighter restrictions on the legal limit



INSIDE THE MIND OF JOURNALIST JESS

With over 4 million people per year admitting they have driven while intoxicated, the issue of drinking and driving is both pertinent

and severe. In order to decrease the number of deaths each year from alcohol-related fatalities, the National Transportation Safety Board is suggesting that states drop the current .08 blood-alcohol concentration legal limit to .05 to ensure that no driver is too inebriated to drive.

As a college student, I have mixed feelings on this topic. There are people that could blow well over the .05 limit and still be fully capable of driving, but the fact that they are potentially endangering other people's lives on our roads is a reality they may face, and is clearly not worth the risk. According to statistics, it would only take a large man three drinks to reach a .05 BAC, and for a woman, two drinks. Although in a perfect world, no one would drink and drive, it is unrealistic to say that anyone who drinks over two or three drinks is too intoxicated to drive.

In my opinion, anything that is beneficial to the safety of ourselves and those around us is a logical decision. The people who view this law as harmful are those that constantly drink and drive, yet have not been caught. I can only imagine the feeling in your stomach and the thoughts racing through your mind when you see

red and blue lights in your rearview mirror while driving drunk. That is something I never want to deal with, and the thousands of dollars spent on court costs and other related expenses is not comparable to the \$10 for a taxi that would have gotten you home safely.

I believe that numerically, dropping the BAC from .08 to .05 would not necessarily be a major factor in the decrease of deaths due to drunk driving, but I believe the controversy and analysis of this topic being brought into the spot light will allow people to be reminded that there are serious consequences to driving drunk, and that the cops are cracking down on this more than ever. A drunk person at the bar may be quicker to catch a ride from a designated driver when realizing the legal limit is now so low that it isn't worth the risk to get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Although there are ways around almost every law, I believe we should lead with our technological foot when being proactive about this issue. Installing breathalyzer's into vehicles would eliminate a large amount of drunk driving. Many people consider this excessive, and an invasion of "privacy," but wouldn't you prefer to know that you are under the legal limit, and will get home safely in your vehicle? I'd rather be safe than sorry. The board is also

looking into biometric software such as steering wheel "palm readers" that would detect your blood-alcohol concentration while driving. Although ingenious, by the time your steering wheel has tested your palms, you are already on the road on your way home. Whichever technological advance car manufacturers choose to provide, I believe that if everyone was required to quickly test their BAC in order for their vehicle to turn on, we would have a lot less drunk drivers behind the wheel.

Although the obvious choice

would be to never drink and drive, we as citizens must respect ourselves and the people around us enough to protect all of our lives. No amount of fun you could have out at a bar is worth killing someone while driving drunk on your way home. There are copious amounts of options when it comes to getting home safely after drinking, so use your resources wisely.

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WEB PHOTO

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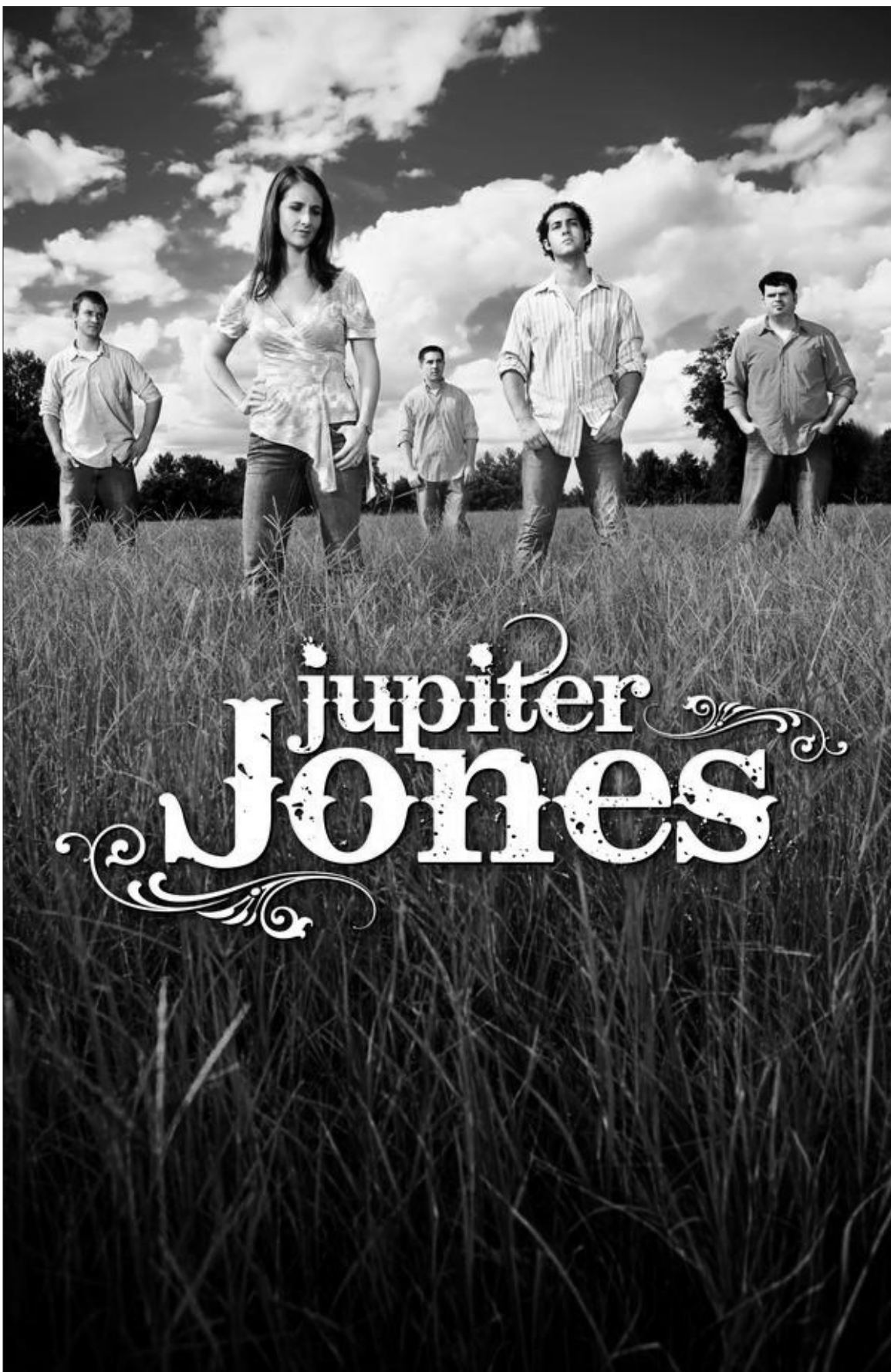
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Behind the band: Jupiter Jones



Jupiter Jones, multiple time winners of Mixer Magazine's "Best Band in Greenville," was created in 2005 as a side project. WEB PHOTO

David Cucchiara
STAFF WRITER

The intergalactic assemblage of multidimensional musicians known as Jupiter Jones continues to produce some of Greenville's most desired and sought after music.

Winners of the 2009, 2010 and 2011 award for Best Band by Greenville's Mixer Magazine, Jupiter Jones is quickly becoming the most coveted cover band in Pitt County and throughout eastern North Carolina.

For lead singer and violinist Kellie Brown, music has provided a foundation for most of her life's endeavors.

"I asked for my first violin when I was three," said Brown. "I saw it on TV, so I asked my parents for one for my birthday. I started taking lessons when I was four, but I liked it so much I really don't even remember starting."

It was that early passion for music that led Brown to the Suzuki Association, a violin institute based out of Greenville, which would later land her childhood group, the High Strung Players, with gigs in Disney World and Australia.

Brown earned her degree in music therapy from ECU and spent some time in Colorado working with Parkinson's patients and others with neurological disorders.

Greenville native Mark Paschal—a multifaceted full time musician since his graduation from the university in 2000—Chris Morlock—an experienced bassist—and Brown decided to merge their talents in 2005 to produce music on the side. Soon after, drummer Tim Health joined the band of North Carolina natives.

"I just sort of needed to do my own thing," said Paschal. "I've been in other people's bands pretty much my whole life. I knew that Chris had the same attitude, so we sort of broke off and started our own thing."

Paschal decided to bring together the collection of talented musicians to form his band, Jupiter Jones.

"When Mark decided to start a band, he wanted to be in charge. So, Chris said, 'Mark is going to start a

band and we're all going to let him think he's in charge.' And, that is so true to the way we are," said Brown. "We all work really well together."

Since the group's conception in 2008, they have spent every weekend, with the exception of some holidays, performing at weddings, private parties and various Greenville venues, including The City Hotel and Bistro, and the Tavern on 4th Street.

Stylistically, Jupiter Jones has a unique quality that consistently keeps listeners interested and draws in new crowds of all ages every week. Jupiter Jones' ability to play popular rock allows the group to integrate their true passion, country music, into their act.

"If I were to do everything I wanted to do it would be all country music, but we do a variety because that's sort of our niche," said Paschal. "For a lot of variety bands, [country] is something they ignore."

It's the musical flexibility of Jupiter Jones that allows the band to play a broad variety of music, giving them an energetic stage presence that's difficult to overlook.

"Mark can play acoustic, electric and keyboard. He can switch back and forth just like that. There's never a missing part," said Brown. "You're more confident when you have all of that behind you."

Jupiter Jones is gearing up for two more performances at The City Hotel and Bistro June 14 and June 19.

"It's my favorite place to play when it's packed," said Brown. "The last couple times we played there it was jam packed. By the first set they were almost at capacity."

Now with three young kids, Brown admits that it's difficult for the band to tour outside of eastern North Carolina. However, Jupiter Jones has no intention of ending their legacy anytime soon.

"We're trying to provide a good service for people," said Paschal. "It works out for everybody."

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

Feeding the soul

Local R&B, jazz quartet livens up Greenville's music scene

Mike Davis
MANAGING EDITOR

When it comes down to it, some people are just more talented than others.

Most people aren't meant to walk the neck of a bass like a Sunday morning stroll. Most people aren't even meant to sing other than in the shower.

The local band Just Us isn't composed of "most people."

At rehearsal, they listened to "Butterfly" by Michael Jackson two times, and with nothing more than a few head nods and a couple hand motions, the R&B, jazz quartet of current and former ECU students recreated and improvised the King of Pop's original.

Created on Jan. 22, Just Us, which includes Marvin Thorne, Brandon Mooring, Quincy Jones, Evan Robertson, Christopher Knuckles, Jamin Croom, Stephen Scott and Arlin Tart, was formed.

A few of the members, originally performing with 1-4-5 Trio and played every Wednesday at

Winslow's for a consistent period, came together this past semester and fulfilled Thorne's vision of creating an R&B, jazz quartet of their own.

Having known each other from previous performances and classes, Thorne and crew began performing around Greenville, putting to use their continual studies.

"The journey never ends," said Carroll Dashiell, associate professor of music at the university. "I learn from them every day, and I only hope they get an ounce from me. That's the progression. That's the lineage. It's a circle and a cycle that goes around."

Through the teaching and advising that Thorne and the other members of the band have received from Dashiell and others in the field of music, the bands image of the future is clear because their understanding of jazz's lineage is so strong.

"It's the fact that you are sharing



Just Us, which was created this past January by Thorne and his friends, performs regularly in Greenville. KATIE WEST / THE EAST CAROLINIAN

> JAZZ page A5

EVENT CALENDAR

Tipsy Teapot

Thursday 7 p.m. Comedy Open Mic	Friday 8 p.m. FS The Variance The Capital Me Against Mary	Saturday 7 p.m. Ooops Comedy Improv	Sunday 6 p.m. AETHER REALM Wilderun
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Peasant's Pub

Thursday 10 p.m. Barefoot Wade	Friday 10 p.m. Mipso	Saturday 10 p.m. Tiny Boxes
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Know of some awesome events coming up? Let Arts & Entertainment know! Email arts@theeastcarolinian.com and put "Event Calendar" in the subject bar.

You have to be at least 21 to attend any shows after 10 p.m.

PHOTO STORY

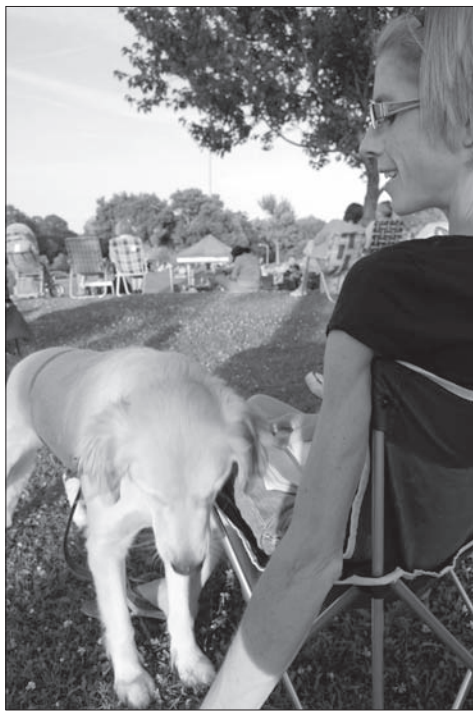


Sunday in the Park

Staff Reports

Tar River Community Band kicked off the first performance for this year's "Sunday in the Park" concert series. Families and locals can gather with your blankets and chairs in the Town Common, Greenville Toyota Amphitheatre for summer entertainment.

"Sunday in the Park" will be held every Sunday this summer at 7 p.m. with a range of musical genres offered free to the public.



KATIE WEST | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

New comedian on the block

Alumnus embarks on fulfilling his childhood dream



Reynolds graduated with as a nutrition major.

Jessica McGettigan

STAFF WRITER

For local comedian Andrew Reynolds, business is always funny. Reynolds, who graduated from ECU this past May with a degree in nutrition, recently began doing standup comedy at different venues and also took place in different comedy competitions.

"I've wanted to be a comedian since fourth grade" said Reynolds. "I was the class clown." In January, Reynolds was asked at the last minute to perform at a standup comedy night when a scheduled comedian failed to show due to an ice storm.

"One of my buddies got me into it," said Reynolds. "He was performing at a show and asked if I wanted to go onstage. I was really nervous, even though I had done four years of theater. After the show, I got good feedback from the audience and I got constructive criticism from other comedians that had performed that night also."

The feedback Reynolds received was just what he needed to motivate him to continue doing standup. To date, Reynolds has performed about 15 shows, one recently at the Topsy Teapot.

Although he is relatively new to the comedy scene, Reynolds truly enjoys being a comedian and is hoping to make a future out of it.

"My favorite part of being a comedian is making people laugh," said Reynolds. "It's just a great feeling being able to make people happy. My goal as a comedian is to be performing in a major city, such as New York, Los Angeles or Chicago, and be involved in the comedy scene."

However, he is not being naïve about his big dream to be a comedian. "I chose a nutrition major for something to fall back on if I don't make it as a comedian," said Reynolds.

But with high aspirations, comedians like Ken Jeong from "The Hangover" create role models to emulate.

"Before he became a professional actor/comedian he was actually a doctor, which was his fallback career. He had a daytime job, but he still pursued his dream of acting," said Reynolds. "If this guy could work hard and be a doctor I can do that too, and that's something I look up too. I believe it is a really good idea to have a fallback in case you don't achieve your dream."

Being a recent graduate, Reynolds advises those who have a dream career to pursue and keep fighting until that goal is achieved.

"Even though I'm new in the comedy scene, I keep telling myself when things aren't going quite well to keep going at it. If you have a goal, keep doing what you're doing until you perfect your craft. Also, love what you do. Being famous and making a million dollars doesn't matter as long as you love what you're doing," said Reynolds.

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

JAZZ continued from A4



Standing from left to right: Quincy Jones (piano), Jamin Croom (bass), Marvin Thorne (vocal), Evan Robertson (trombone) and Christopher Knuckles (tenor saxophone) currently make up Just Us.

your gift with other people and other people enjoy listening to what you have to offer," said Thorne. "You have to understand that your gift is not just yours; it's everyone that listens to you."

For those that have seen the men improve and become the musicians they are now, it's a rewarding process to witness.

"I'm like the proud papa, because just working with the guys, sometimes it's even in a classroom situation or in rehearsal when we have a concept we've been working on, we've been fussing about," said Dashiell, "then I see the light switch go on, and it's like, 'cool.'"

Thorne said that performing isn't something that can just be taught; performing is what someone does and is embedded in them. And luckily for the band, said Thorne, everyone involved has that gift.

"I think the biggest thing is the fact that we love to play our own particular instruments," said Thorne. We're

the guys that would come out to the music building at 10 p.m., 11 p.m. and play for hours."

Through the members' individual and collective efforts, Just Us understands the complexity and impact music can have. The band hopes that the passion that each of them embody while performing is truly understood and embraced by those listening.

"Music is not just about listening, it's about feeling. And we actually want you to feel our music, not just hear it, but feel it," said Thorne. "A lot of the times we get together because we're going through something."

Thorne said that they want the audience to feel the band's emotions as if their own, just as they once felt while they listened to jazz legends.

Along with peers and professors, music idols that have come through Greenville — Billy Taylor and Kenny Garret, to name a few — have played an

encouraging role in not just Thorne's musical career, but to those who surround him on the stage.

"Just to hang out with someone that feels the way we feel about music, as strongly, and understands the fact it's not just about the music, but how you feel; that really encourages us to keep doing what we're doing," said Thorne. "Actually having him come down and talk to us, we got that different aspect of music out of him."

But when all the instruments get packed up, the audience has finished dancing and the venue's lights have flickered off, Just Us leaves with the satisfaction of knowing they're passion is genuine.

Whether playing at Winslow's or Wembley Stadium, "We have to stay true to what we originally know," said Thorne. "We have to stay true to the music."

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Future Pirate J'Kyra Brown Named Player of the Year

J'Kyra Brown, who signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) to play basketball and attend ECU last November, has been named the Player of the Year by the North Carolina Basketball Coaches Association (NCBCA) after completing an outstanding senior season at Rocky Mount High School.

"I am honored to be chosen as the NCBCA Player of the Year," Brown said. "I am extremely excited and looking forward to playing for Coach [Heather] Macy and her staff at ECU."

Brown garnered the honors of top player in North Carolina after finishing her prep career as the all-time leading scorer in Rocky Mount girls' basketball history (1,665 career points), while averaging 25.0 points per game, 6.3 rebounds per game, 3.5 steals per game with 19 blocks in her senior year. The 5-foot-10-inch guard is regarded as a four-star recruit by ESPN HoopGurlz and was ranked the 32nd best guard in the country by the same source after playing only three years of prep basketball.

In addition to being named NCBCA Player of the Year, Brown will also be competing in the North Carolina East/West All-Star Game Monday, July 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Drew Reynolds Named Louisville Slugger All-American

ECU junior Drew Reynolds added another piece of hardware to his trophy case when he was named Louisville Slugger Second-Team All-American by Collegiate Baseball, the publication announced Thursday.

Reynolds, who earned First-Team All-Conference USA and All-Tournament Team honors last week, led the Pirates with a .322 average and 68 hits, while ranking second with 13 doubles and fourth with 30 runs scored.

On the mound the Cherryville, N.C. native posted a 3-2 record with a 2.92 ERA and recorded a league and team-best 14 saves, which also ranks 13th nationally.

In three seasons with the Pirates, Reynolds owns a .313 average (147-for-470) with three home runs, 47 RBIs, 21 doubles and 65 RBIs. After posting a career-best 14 saves in 2013, he moved into sole possession of second place on the school's all-time saves list and is three away from breaking Seth Simmons (2008-11) record, which stands at 26.

In the classroom, Reynolds is a two-time C-USA All-Academic selection and three-time C-USA Honor Roll member. Reynolds becomes the sixth All-America selection under head coach Billy Godwin and the first since Kyle Roller and Ryan Wood in 2009.



KATIE WEST | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Four schools (UNC, N.C. State, UNC-Wilmington and Elon) participated in NCAA Regional action, while ECU just missed the cut on postseason play.

North Carolina teams play in NCAA Regionals

Josh Graham
SENIOR WRITER

Even though the Pirates finished just shy of making the NCAA baseball tournament, the tobacco road was still well represented on the diamond.

North Carolina and N.C. State hosted regionals last weekend, while UNC-Wilmington and Elon were placed in the Charlottesville, Va., regional.

The field of four was cut in half after one weekend, with UNC and N.C. State moving on to the Super Regionals.

Even though they found a way, UNC arguably had the toughest time of any regional-host clinching a berth into the supers, despite entering the tournament as the No. 1 team in the nation.

On Sunday, the Tar Heels appeared to be coasting towards the round of sixteen—leading 2-0 and having not allowed a hit against the Florida Atlantic Owls—but with one swing of the bat, a three-run home run by Ricky Santiago, the Owls stole the lead and the game, 3-2.

The hosting Tar Heels left 15 base runners stranded on base and were forced to play a winner-take-all rematch with FAU on Monday.

Similar to the night before, UNC looked like they were in a good shape going into the latter innings, but the Owls continued to fight back.

Trailing 6-2 in the ninth inning, the Owls scored a pair of runs on walks with the bases loaded, setting up Tyler Rocklein with two outs. Rocklein found a pitch that hung in the middle of the strike zone and belted it over the left field wall for a grand slam to put FAU in the lead 8-6.

With their season slipping away, UNC responded in the bottom half of the inning on

> NCAA page A7

Progression is key for Akeem Richmond

Dan Hunt
SPORTS WRITER

More pressure is being put on the ECU basketball program to succeed than ever before. The last thing ECU needs is a subpar year in Conference USA before the competition gets even harder in the American Athletic Conference (AAC).

With that being said, the 2012-2013 ECU basketball season was a major success, due in part to Akeem Richmond's last second buzzer-beater against Weber State to cap the most notable moment, and season, in ECU basketball history.

Over 10 thousand Weber State faithful packed the Dee Events Center on Aug. 2 to watch their Wildcats battle the Pirates for the CIT crown. It was one of the loudest, most hostile venues ECU would play at during the season, but Richmond felt right at home.

"Their arena was crazy, but it was packed full of purple. It actually felt like we were playing in Mingies," said Richmond.

It may have looked like a home game, but the elevation in Ogden, Utah put the Pirates at a disadvantage.

"It was hard to breath. The altitude was very different," said Richmond. "It definitely affected me, I was sick out there."

Akeem's discomfort may very well have lowered his effectiveness, as the Pirate single-season three-point record holder managed to score only three points throughout the first 39 minutes and 59 seconds, but the last tick of the game belonged to him. Senior point guard, Miguel Paul, took the ball up the court for the final possession with the game tied at 74. He drove to the hoop with four seconds remaining, looking to



NICK FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Akeem Richmond's (1) three-pointer sealed the Pirates' first postseason title. Now, the focus is on raising the bar.

either pull-up for a jumper or dish to a cutting Maurice Kemp. The Wildcats were ready and waiting covering both options, forcing Paul to do a 180-degree turn in the air and kick it out to Richmond with less than two seconds left.

"I didn't have much time to think. As soon as I caught it, I knew I had to shoot it," said Richmond. "I just told myself, 'I've got to follow through,' because I was fading away. But I knew it was good. I just couldn't wait for it to go in. It was going in slow motion, like a movie."

Akeem's shot tickled the twine for the Pirates, clinching the first postseason championship in the program's history. For the rising senior, the next moments "felt like a dream."

"I did about fifteen interviews. When I got back to my phone, I had

(about) four-hundred text messages, and I honestly couldn't sleep for the next five days because I was still excited about the shot."

Richmond, who is ranked sixth in the nation by Bleacher Report for three-point threats heading into the 2013-2014 season, believes he still owes more to Pirate Nation.

"Last year we set the bar by winning the CIT championship, so the fans are definitely expecting a lot more from us. I want to give them more than the CIT," said Richmond. "I'm looking for bigger and better things next year— NIT, maybe NCAA— we just want to progress."

Akeem will have a bigger role than spot-up-shooter next season because the Pirates lost four seniors and Robert Sampson transferred.

"I really have to step up, and Paris [Roberts-Campbell] and Ty

[Armstrong] really have to step up," said Richmond.

The few returning Pirates, who received significant minutes in 2012-2013, cannot do it alone. They will look for new faces and second-year players to step up.

"I think Prince [Williams] is coming along the best," said Richmond. "He's in the gym every day, and he's going to surprise a lot of people next year. He's really good."

The Pirates will look for more success in a crucial 2013-2014 season, starting next winter. They will likely face a watered-down C-USA before they start consistently playing national brands such as, Connecticut, Cincinnati and Temple in 2014-2015.

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

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Looking forward to football

Ronnie Moore
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2013 ECU football season officially kicks off in 87 days when the Pirates take on the Old Dominion Monarchs in the friendly confines of Dowdy-Ficklen stadium.

Coming off an 8-5 season and with only one blemish in conference action, the Pirates are already garnering high expectations from fans and supporters alike. With the 2013-2014 season being ECU's final hoorah in C-USA, the Pirates will look to take home a championship.

If not for an unfortunate tie-breaker scenario, Ruffin McNeill and the Pirates may have headed to Oklahoma to face Tulsa in last year's conference championship, but instead ECU was left at home waiting on selection Sunday to find out their final matchup of the season.

Experience goes a long way in college football and with Shane Carden heading into his second season at the helm of the offense, there is no doubt the red shirt junior quarterback is poised to take his

team to new heights.

With new athletic director Jeff Compher officially in charge of Pirate athletics, one of his first goals had to be resigning McNeill. Now ECU has McNeill tied up until June 2018 and thus giving the program stability in the front office.

With playmakers like Carden, Justin Hardy, Vintavious Cooper and a strong front seven on defense, ECU will be primed for an improvement in its record from last season.

With all of this information accounted for, it's only appropriate to speculate at how good they can possibly be next season.

When you hear the word undefeated, you think of the Alabama's and Ohio State's. But with a less than stellar conference schedule and rival non-conference opponents, anything can happen for ECU.

This 2013 ECU football team realistically has a chance to finish up 12-0, but in order for this to happen, all three phases (offense, defense, special teams) must pull their weight," said former ECU run-



KATIE WEST | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Pirates out of conference schedule is highlighted by games against UNC, N.C. State and a home game against Virginia Tech.

ning back Brandon Simmons.

The Pirate face three ACC schools this year (Virginia Tech, UNC and N.C. State). None of those games will be a cakewalk but, of the three, Simmons believes N.C. State will be most vulnerable to the Pirates.

"[NC] State has a new coaching staff that is looking to change the dynamics of their team," said Simmons. "Coaching transitions are never easy."

Dekota Marshall, a former ECU defensive back that played for new defensive coordinator Rick Smith, also expresses the same feelings for this year's team. "There is not a

team on ECU's schedule that can't be beaten," said Marshall.

Smith will play a key role in tightening up the loose ends of the defense and returning them to the stature they once were.

"One thing Coach Smith instilled in my teammates and I was to 'never get beat deep' meaning don't give up the deep ball or the big play and we will win the game," said Marshall. "I guarantee 99.9% of the time he was right."

The toughest games on the schedule will, no doubt, be the non-conference opponents. Three ACC schools and an Old Dominion

team, who can score at a high rate, are all interesting matchups. Also, road games against Middle Tennessee State and Marshall will test the Pirates. Tulsa at home will also be a game to keep an eye on as well.

An early conservative prediction in my opinion would be a 9-3 record. Finishing 2-2 in non-conference and going 7-1 in C-USA. The possibility for 10 wins is sitting there for the taking. Pirate Nation will have to watch and wait to see how it turns out.

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

LETTER continued from A6

Mike Zolk's two-RBI single to tie the game, 8-8, and force extra innings.

In the top of the twelfth, Florida Atlantic struck again with a three-run blast by Levi Meyer, only for the Tar Heels to get three runs as well and tie the game again in the bottom half.

In the next inning, UNC finally punched its ticket to the supers on Cody Stubbs game-winning single with the bases loaded. The Tar Heels won 12-11 in thirteen innings.

N.C. State's road to the round of 16 was a little less bumpy. After the Wolfpack

outlasted the William & Mary Tribe 1-0, behind sophomore ace Carlos Rodon's complete game shutout on Saturday, the Wolfpack faced the Tribe again on Sunday at Doak Field.

The question going in was whether or not the Wolfpack could get any run support and

they certainly did in route to a 9-2 win.

Both UNC-Wilmington and Elon weren't as fortunate and were eliminated from their regional by ACC-power Virginia.

Due to Rice upsetting Oregon in the Eugene, Ore., regional, both N.C. State and

UNC will host regionals this upcoming weekend.

The Tar Heels will host South Carolina, who won back-to-back titles in 2010 and 2011, on Friday at 1 p.m. Later that evening, the Wolfpack will welcome in Rice for a trip to Omaha on the line.

If both teams are able to

punch their tickets to Omaha, they would be on collision course to face each other, with the title of North Carolina supremacy on the line.

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Playing the field with some former Pirates

Craig Barnes
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The everyday relationships and team bonding moments seemed to be the biggest takeaway by seniors Chris Gosik, Joseph Hughes and Jake Harris during their time at ECU—relationships and memories that may last a lifetime.

These three senior baseball players have experienced three distinct paths, but still ended up playing for the same team.

Gosik began his playing career with Malvern Prep in Thornton, Pa. He was drafted out of high school in the 49th round of the 2009 Major League Baseball First Year Amateur Player Draft by the Philadelphia Phillies. Gosik had an opportunity to skip collegiate baseball and pursue a professional career after high school, but he elected to become a Pirate for his college duration.

"I would have never had the opportunity to meet some of the friends I have now. I consider them friends for life and playing college baseball was a great experience," said Gosik.

Gosik plans to continue his baseball playing career, whether it is as a professional baseball player or for an independent team. Gosik started 47 games as a corner positional player with a .258 career batting average and proved to be a more than adequate when fielding. He only committed eight fielding errors in 86 chances for a career .936 fielding average.

Gosik's best year for the Pirates was in 2011 when

averaging .283 in 43 games, driving in 12 runs while compiling 26 hits. He did not see the field much in his senior campaign, but did manage four hits in his three starts. Gosik said that the camaraderie he experienced with his teammates is what he would miss most.

Hughes talked about the euphoria of being on a college team in general.

"It's like your own fraternity. You have brothers and it's nothing better than being that close with a group of guys while playing a college sport," he said.

Hughes, like Gosik, was also drafted out of high school. Drafted by the Washington Nationals in the 40th round of the 2009 First-Year Amateur Player Draft, Hughes decided to come to college to mature mentally and physically.

"I look to play baseball at the next level, whether the draft or through the free agent process. I would like to get a shot at the next level," said Hughes.

A ten-time letterwinner out of D.L. McMichael, Hughes excelled in baseball. Hughes guided the Phoenix to an 89-21 overall record and the 2009 State Championship. While playing with the Pirates, Hughes did not match his previous success, but learned a lot from his head coach.

"Coach taught us that it might be hard on you, but it's all for a reason. It is to make you a better person," said Hughes.

Hughes appeared in 30 games throughout his

career, most coming in relief work. His best season for the Pirates was in 2011 when he appeared in 18 games while only allowing 10 runs with his earned run average at 4.09.

Things are quite different from teammate Jake Harris. Harris, who is considering heading to graduate school to get his MSA in accounting, came to ECU for educational purposes.

"If I get an opportunity to play I will take it in a heartbeat, but I went to ECU for my education so I could get a job after college. But if a team offers me an opportunity, I will definitely take it," said Harris.

Harris has decided to take the lessons he learned from Coach Godwin and his years as a baseball player and apply it to his life.

"Coach Godwin always taught us to do the right thing. You might not be known for how good you were or how good your team was, but you will always be remembered for how hard you worked on and off the field."

In three years as a Pirate, Harris only started one game, but conjured a 2-1 record. Harris' career ERA was 3.93 and he would finish his career with 47 strikeouts. His best season as a Pirate was during his 2011 campaign. Appearing in 14 games that season, he pitched 15.2 innings, only allowing 7 hits, 3 runs and an ERA of 1.15.

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