



The East Carolinian



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Volume 90, Issue 32

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Wednesday, 6.3.15

Trading cleats for high heels

An ECU football player's transgender journey

Kelsey Padgett
TEC STAFF

In the mid 1970s, Greg Pingston was a scholarship athlete on the East Carolina University football team.

By his junior year, he was thriving both on and off the field and had gotten married.

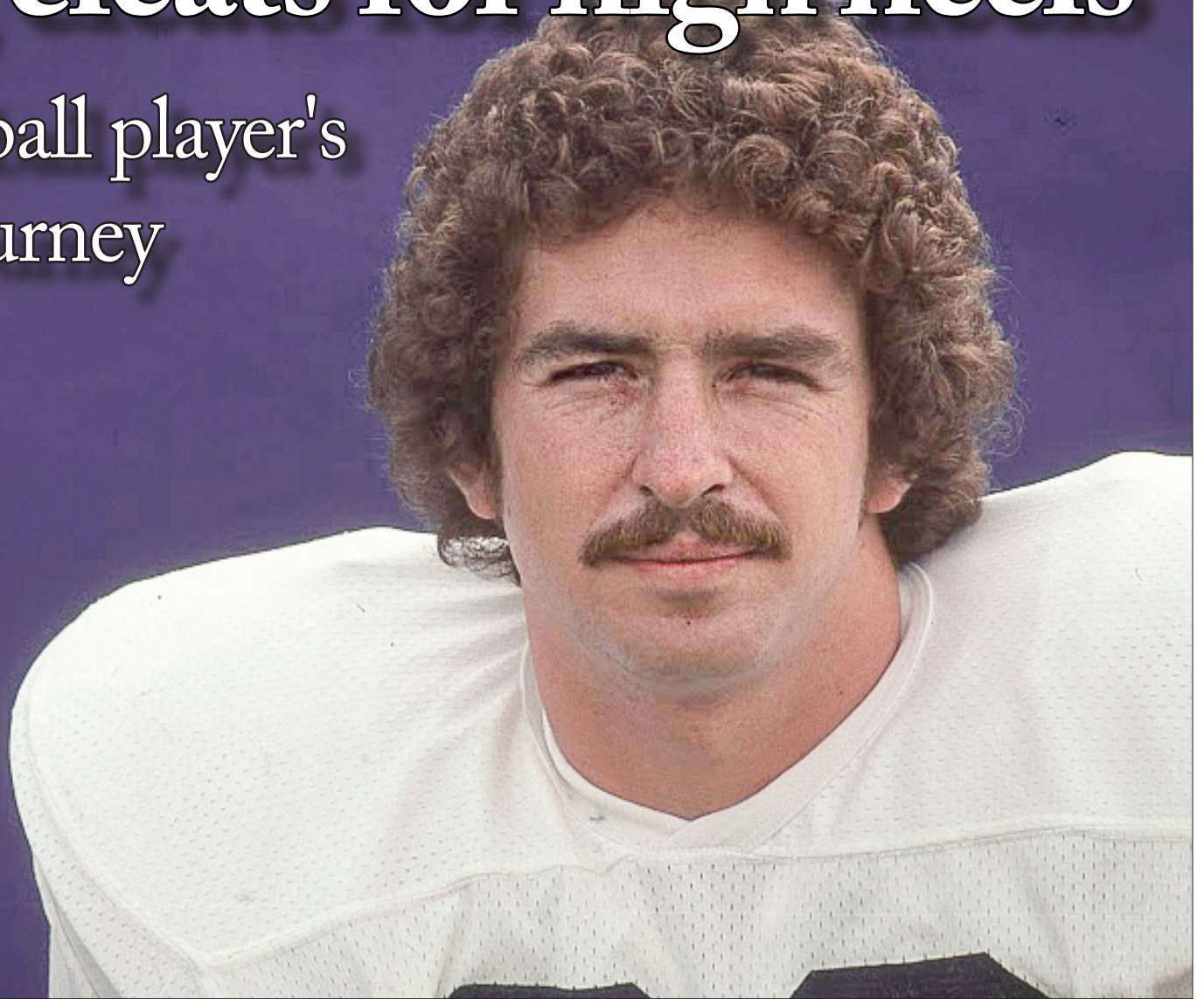
But when he left the bright lights of the stadium behind, Pingston would go home and change into something more comfortable to him.

A dress.

The high school homecoming king, the scholarship middle linebacker, the ECU Student Body vice-president had secretly been dealing with gender identity issues for over a decade.

Close to 40 years later, Pingston now lives as Gina Duncan.

> **GINA** page A2



COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS



SETH GULLEDGE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A dump truck leaving the safehouse construction site passes a sign in Greene County protesting Anchor House's arrival.

Male sexual victims home in Ayden endures scrutiny

Seth Gullledge
TEC STAFF

Restore One, a nonprofit founded by East Carolina University graduate student Anna Smith, will be opening the first safehouse in the country for male victims of sexual trafficking and harm in Ayden, N.C.

Restore One is based in Greenville and was founded by Anna Smith along with her husband Chris.

The organization is focused on providing safety and restorative care for boys, ages 12-18, who are victims of sex trafficking in the United States. To efficiently meet this purpose, Restore One has recently revealed their intention to construct Anchor House.

Anchor House will be the first safehouse for male victims of the sex trade in the United States. The 10 acre property will consist of three cottages where the boys will live and a separate two story lodge where the boys will eat meals, go to class and enjoy recreational activity.

The boys will live with Restore One employees referred to as 'house-parents' who will help the boys through their recovery process and provide care. The plan is to start out housing four boys, but the facility will have the resources to increase that number to 12 in the future.

Smith said one of the biggest challenges she and Restore One face is fighting the cultural stigmas that are

attached to male victims of trafficking.

"It's a privilege and it's a heartache. We do deal with people who just don't understand," said Smith. "Whether it be lack of education, lack of cultural awareness—we know we're up against changing not only the lives of the boys that will enter into our home, but the way that America views male sexual harm."

Restore One broke ground for the Anchor House in February of this year, but since starting construction a few weeks ago the organization has faced outrage from nearby homeowners.

A small minority of Greene County residents have expressed their concerns, and erected two signs near the construction site to protest the building of Anchor House in the intended location.

Linda Morgan, one of the residents, said that the house will be constructed approximately 250 feet from her property. Linda expressed her concerns about the building project and said the "secretive manner" of the project concerned her the most, but she did not have any issue with the mission.

"I do not hold any animosity towards these pitiful, poor, young men, and thank God someone rescued them out of sexual slavery," said Morgan. "It's just the secrecy

> **ANCHOR** page A2

Bright future ahead for ECU baseball despite rocky regional



Corey Keenan
TEC STAFF

While the 2015 East Carolina baseball season began with more questions than answers, the 2016 season will not feature nearly the same situation.

Last offseason, ECU lost nine prominent players and had to fill the void with much younger players this year that found unprecedented success. This offseason – Head Coach Cliff Godwin's first in full control of the team – that turnover is not expected.

ECU will likely lose just two key contributors in Reid Love and Hunter Allen. The fate of Luke

Lowery will not be known until after the June MLB Draft. Lowery likely has the best chance of being drafted off the 2015 team, but should he fall further than expected, he may be willing to use his final year of eligibility to improve his draft stock.

Allen's spot at shortstop can be filled by this season's third baseman Kirk Morgan – who made frequent starts at shortstop in his freshman season. Reid Love's pitching will be difficult to replace in an individual, but a platoon of now experienced pitchers will likely be able to make the vacancy less impactful.

Evan Kruczynski struggled late in his first full season on the pitching staff, but the big-game experience gained by the rising junior will be invaluable. Kruczynski will make the jump to the Cape Cod League this summer – the nation's most scouted collegiate summer league – where he will face the top collegiate bats throughout the summer.

Fellow rising junior Jacob Wolfe had inconsistencies in his first year as a starter for the Pirates, but his last few starts should keep Pirate fans optimistic headed into next season.

David Lucroy will also return for his senior season and will provide experience as a fifth-year senior on the staff. Lucroy had an impressive outing against Houston in the AAC championship – which proved to be his final stint of the season.

Should Lowery sign a professional contract, replacing the power provided by the 6-foot-2 Midlothian, Va., native may be a difficult task. Bryce Harman is a strong power bat that could be placed in the middle of the order. However, the rising junior will have to put together better results.

After starting the season as hot as any player in The American, Harman finished his sophomore season with identical statistics to his freshman year. He finished with .244 average and seven home runs in both years while raising his RBI total by just six – from 21 to 27.

Harman found the gaps more this season, however, as he raised his double total from just three to 12. Harman finds himself in an ideal situation, however, with help from Godwin, he may start to find his swing and reach some of his offensive potential.

If Lowery lets the signing deadline pass and chooses to return for his senior year, the Pirates' middle of the order in 2016 will be feared around the conference. Again, with Godwin's track record as a phe-

> **BASEBALL** page A8

BRIEFS

N.C. Senate Approves Abortion Bill

The North Carolina state Senate approved bill 4650, in a 32-16 vote on Monday. The bill increases the waiting period for an abortion from one day to three days. The Senate amended the bill to remove the provision that only board-certified OB-GYN doctors are permitted to perform the procedure.

The bill will now return to the House to concur Senate alterations before proceeding to Governor McCrory for final approval.

ECU student receives musical honors

East Carolina University student Zachary Grass is selected as one of nine winners in the Yamaha Young Performing Artist competition. Grass, a tuba player, joins winners from across the United States, Japan and South Korea. Grass however, was the only low brass instrumentalist selected as a winner this year.

The YYPA competition is an annual competition which celebrates performing artist from around the world. The winner from this year will have an all expense paid trip to the YYPA celebration this weekend.



Gina Duncan works for Equality Florida as the transgender inclusion director. She works to gain equal rights for the LGBT community.

GINA continued from A1

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Duncan said she began struggling with gender identity issues at around seven years old. In a large family with two sisters and two brothers, Duncan often found herself playing with the girls.

"I just happened to be convinced by my sister to join her and her neighborhood friends in a dress up party," said Duncan. "From the time I donned that little dress and my sister dabbed nail polish on me, I, for the first time, felt like I could breathe."

From that moment on, Duncan said she knew she was "different."

Similar to Caitlyn Jenner, the woman formerly known as Olympian Bruce Jenner, Duncan threw herself into sports as she got older.

"Some people say that transgender people do that to overcompensate," said Duncan. "They try to internally fix what they feel might be wrong with them due to a lack of understanding."

She excelled on Merritt Island High School's football team, where she played middle linebacker. She helped the team go on to win a state championship and was selected as an All-State middle linebacker.

She was also voted Homecoming King and Student Body president her senior year.

During her final season on the Merritt Island football team, she accepted an athletic scholarship at East Carolina University to play football.

Duncan had everything a teenage boy could dream of, but she said it wasn't enough.

"I would need to express my feminine side. I would dress up in secret and then I would be good for two or three months, and then it would come back," said Duncan. "I had this strong need to be my authentic self. What's frustrating about being transgender is you live this very shadowy tormented life that you can't share with anyone, yet you know that you need to be this authentic person that's trying to live inside the wrong body."

TIME IN GREENVILLE

In the fall of 1974, Duncan had moved to Greenville to play for the Pirates. ECU Hall of Fame Coach Pat Dye was a recent hire and began turning the Pirates into a winning team. Duncan played strong safety.

Duncan recorded a career-high nine tackles against NC State in 1974. She also had a career-high seven assisted tackles that same season against Furman—a university that also offered Duncan a scholarship.

During Duncan's junior year at ECU, she got married and moved off-campus with her wife. Duncan's wife had no idea that her new husband was harboring a secret.

Duncan would go to thrift stores in town and pretend to buy women's clothing and jewelry for her wife; instead the outfits were for her secret stash.

"I was scared to death and my heart was pounding," said Duncan. "You certainly don't want to be found out, especially being a football player at East Carolina. So I would always worry who I might run into, and all that kind of stuff. It was very stressful."

REVEALING HER SECRET

After college, Duncan moved back to Florida with her family. She had a wife, two children and a career as a regional manager at Wells Fargo overseeing 26 branches and 285 people. But each year, she became

“ What's frustrating about being transgender is you live this shadowy tormented life that you can't share with anyone, yet you know that you need to be this authentic person that's trying to live inside the wrong body. ”

-Gina Duncan

more unhappy with her life.

"I remember on my 45th birthday coming down and sitting at the table having coffee," said Duncan. "I literally had a melt down. My wife thought I was going through a midlife crisis. I said, 'I feel like with each passing year I'm wasting my life and I'm living my life wrong.'"

Right before her 50th birthday, Duncan had finally made the decision to tell her wife her secret. But before Duncan had the opportunity to, her wife found a bag of women's lingerie hidden in their closet and assumed Duncan was having an affair.

"I had to decide if I would tell her the truth or whether I would tell her the lie that I had an affair," said Duncan. "I honestly didn't know which would be worse."

She told her wife the truth. "I was screaming for acceptance," said Duncan. "'Please help me. Please support me.' She looked at me with these really sad, gray eyes and said 'I don't ever want to see this again.'"

Duncan and her wife were divorced two years later.

Once the dust had settled, Duncan decided it was time to tell her family. She told her mother first, who immediately began researching.

Duncan's mother helped her sit down and tell each of her siblings what she was going through and what kind of changes she was about to make. Her sisters supported her decision, but her brothers were not as understanding.

"My younger brother who idolized his older brother was very disappointed and our relationship has never been the same," said Duncan. "And my older brother, who is very conservative, was very hateful. He didn't accept it well and he thought I was doing the wrong thing and I needed mental help."

But the hardest person for Duncan to share his secret with was his father, the former marine who was suffering from Alzheimer's.

Duncan said his sisters told him to email their father a letter explaining what she was going through, but Duncan decided it was better to tell him face-to-face.

"He sat up in his chair," said Duncan. "His eyes cleared and he looked at me and said, 'Son, it's your life. You only live once. Do what you need to do to be happy.'"

BECOMING GINA

When Duncan made the decision to transition, she knew she had to take the proper steps to assure she did it successfully.

According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 41 percent of people who identify as transgender have at least attempted suicide, almost nine times the national average.

Duncan said this number is largely due to the ostracization from society transgender people feel after their transition, because they "forever look like a man in a dress."

"I was fortunate in the fact that I was in a financial position that I told myself that if I was going to do this I was going to give myself the best chance of surviving it," said Duncan. "I was going to do everything

I could to walk into a restaurant or walk down the street and not be read and face that hatred from the general public who didn't understand."

Duncan spent the next few years undergoing hormone replacement therapy. She visited Dr. Douglas Ousterhous in San Francisco, Calif., for facial feminization surgery. Ousterhous is the same doctor that Jenner visited for her surgeries during her transition.

Duncan also underwent a breast augmentation, a rhinoplasty, and to finalize her transition, gender reassignment surgery.

She finished her transition on May 22, 2008, and has lived full-time as Gina Duncan ever since.

BACK TO NORMAL

Duncan said since her transition she has faced both negative and positive reactions.

One day after returning to her job, Duncan said a coworker of seven years returned from lunch and had obviously been drinking. She came into Duncan's office and began to sob.

"She said 'I never had a chance to say goodbye to Greg. Greg died and now I have to mourn that person,'" Duncan recalled her saying.

Duncan's ex-wife never regained contact with Duncan after her transition and they have not spoken in over five years.

But Duncan's mother has remain unwavering in her support for her All-American football star.

"The rock through all of this process was my mom," said Duncan. "She has really been my savior."

PRESENT DAY

Duncan has now been living as a transgender woman for seven years. She works for Equality Florida, a civil rights organization that works to gain full equality for Florida's LGBT community.

"We want the world to see us as we see ourselves," said Duncan. "I would encourage people to take the time to become more educated and realize transgender people are just trying to be their authentic self."

She also saw the cover of Vanity Fair on Monday and said she thought Jenner was beautiful.

"I hope everyone doesn't get lost in the discussion about how good she looks or how good she doesn't look," said Duncan. "The main thing this is doing is driving the dialogue and the discussion about her transgender journey. It's going to give others like her a voice."

She hopes Jenner finds the same happiness in her true self that she has found.

"I no longer have this shadowy conflicted soul," said Duncan. "I no longer wake up and hate the person in the mirror anymore, but I do find myself throwing myself into my work more. My life is not as full with friends as it once was. But would I do it again if I had to? Yes. I wouldn't have survived being Greg."

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

ONLINE

Planning for Heritage Hall begins

Corrections/ Clarifications

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper please contact Ryan Clancy, editor@theeastcarolinian.com

ECO-pirates and The East Carolinian would like to remind you to recycle this paper.

ANCHOR continued from A1

that was surrounding it."

Morgan also expressed her concern that building the Anchor House in a residential area may not be a good idea, and the construction could lower property values.

That is something she said local homeowners have been trying to recover since a devastating flood in 1999.

Smith said Restore One fully intended for the project to be confidential, due to the sensitive nature of the organization's work and for the safety of the boys.

"I don't like using the word secretive, I preferably use the word confidential," said Smith. "Our work at Restore One is confidential, and the location of the home, to a certain extent, we wanted to keep confidential."

Smith said because Greene County has no zoning laws Restore One was not required to inform the community what they were building.

"There was no need for us to inform the community about the home, and we didn't want to either, for confidentiality purposes," said Smith. "We want to be a 'you don't see us organization' as far as our home goes for providing safety for boys who experienced trauma and harm."

According to Anna Smith, the need for a facility such as this is long overdue. Smith said that some 50 percent of victims of the sex trade are males, but there are no facilities to house them, like those that exist for female victims.

"I really think that there are a number of factors that play into this, number one being male and female gender roles," said Smith. "If you take into account how men are treated when it comes to sexual harm, there's really no room for them to be victims. We often see men as the perpetrators or the one who are inflicting violence. We never see them as the ones who actually need help and need to be restored."

She said since founding Restore One, they have received support from across the world and hope to continue expanding their organization. Smith also said she hopes Anchor House will be the first of many restorative facilities built by Restore One and organizations like it. Anchor House is set to open doors in 2016.

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PIRATE RANTS

What do you call it when you get a letter from a feminist? Hate male.

Am I the only one that thinks TEC has become so bada**?

Girl in the green Cherokee at the Health Science building. Holla back yo.

Obviously the data hashtags give you access to are inaccessible through a piece of paper but they're still funny. And on the low #iamagenius.

To the person whose professor is assigning racist/sexist readings: DEFINITELY talk to him about it! That's disrupting your education and he needs to fix it!

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding rants can be directed to Ryan Clancy at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Our view

BOG degree consolidation at ECU was appropriate

UNC Board of Governors voted at their May meeting to consolidate education programs at universities across the state.

This decision was made in order to prevent having to cut programs that were deemed to have low productivity by the Board of Governors' Academic Program Productivity Report.

We as an editorial staff think the decision to consolidate programs at ECU was a productive solution for a difficult issue.

With this solution, ECU will still be able to provide programs that meet the needs and interests of their students. The continued existence of these programs also attract a more diverse student population.

Many are outraged at what they perceive to be a symbol of bureaucratic limitations, disallowing students to pursue their diverse interests. We agree that the school system

is responsible for providing wholesome and expansive programs, but they must recognize the realities of our economic situation.

Programs with low productivity represent areas with little student interest. Consolidating programs with low student interest into larger more encompassing programs only help the university by streamlining our system and more efficiently distribute funding.

In doing so, the university will be left with extra resources to bolster more productive programs without draining already limited resources.

In the end, this change does not harm our academic opportunities, nor devalue the programs themselves. If anything, this move provides an efficient precedent for the preservation of minority programs, and leaves room for future expansion.



CONTRIBUTED BY VANITY FAIR

Photos from the Vanity Fair spread were released on Monday debuting the new look and identity of former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner.

Jenner renders discussion

Tyler Kelbaugh
TEC STAFF

When Vanity Fair released the cover of their latest magazine featuring Caitlyn Jenner, formerly known as Olympic Gold Medalist Bruce Jenner, the Twitter-sphere was understandably set ablaze. The transgender community rarely receives time in the spotlight, and with such a prominent person suddenly becoming the face of a very significant community it was only natural for people to start airing their thoughts.

Largely, the messages have been filled with support, however there is a disappointingly significant portion of the population that instead chooses to assault Caitlyn's character. Refusing to grant her respect, people like Nickelodeon's former childhood star Drake Bell have thrown hurtful and ignorant comments attempting to deny that Caitlyn is a woman and therefore denying her respect.

Why people care so much about someone else's personal decision regarding their body and mental state is beyond me. How does Caitlyn somehow threaten the average person's daily life? She doesn't, and it's just flat out

wrong to act like somehow her changing name and body to find happiness is anything less than reasonable.

One of the most common arguments I've seen? That somehow Bruce becoming Caitlyn is against God's will. People citing religion to attack Caitlyn is laughable, considering they are largely the same people who declare that Jesus loves everyone and forgives all sins. They are also the people who declare that only God can judge them for their actions, all the while judging others for simply doing what makes them happy.

Others, who simply are attacking something they don't understand, never learned the difference between sex and gender. The two are completely different; sex is biological and gender is mental. Caitlyn Jenner has always seen herself as a woman, although she was biologically assigned to a male body.

At the 2015 ESPY's, the sports world's award show, Caitlyn will be presented with the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. This announcement led to some questioning just how much courage it took for her to step out as transgender, with Fox News arguing that it took more courage to come out as a conservative.

For those questioning the bravery of Caitlyn, I'd like to point to any Internet comments board on the subject. Thousands upon thousands of people sit hurling insults, trying to reduce Caitlyn's self-worth for no reason other than to break her spirit. It's scary, the thought of being deemed unworthy by others, but Caitlyn took that step.

There are so many others dealing with the same mental struggle that Caitlyn dealt with, and simply by stepping forth and becoming a representative of the community she has given them strength, support and much needed respect from the mainstream media. Her actions were truly courageous, and certainly will have a very positive impact on the transgender community.

Reasons for disrespecting Caitlyn Jenner and the transgender community are not only flimsy, but also malicious. Everyone deserves and wants to be treated with love and respect. There is no sensible reason to not respect Caitlyn Jenner.

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

Letter to the Editor BOG comes down on higher education

Higher education is under attack in North Carolina. In a meeting last week, the Board of Governors decided to cut and/or combine 46 degree programs in the UNC system. East Carolina is taking one of the largest hits with 17.4 percent of the degrees being cut coming from our campus. Among those being cut (or "consolidated") are French K-12, German K-12, Hispanic Studies Education, German, French, Public History, Special Education - Intellectual Disabilities, and Vocational Education.

Four of eight of the degrees mentioned are education based and this, unfortunately, does not come as much of a surprise when you take into account how education in North Carolina has been treated in general over the past couple of years.

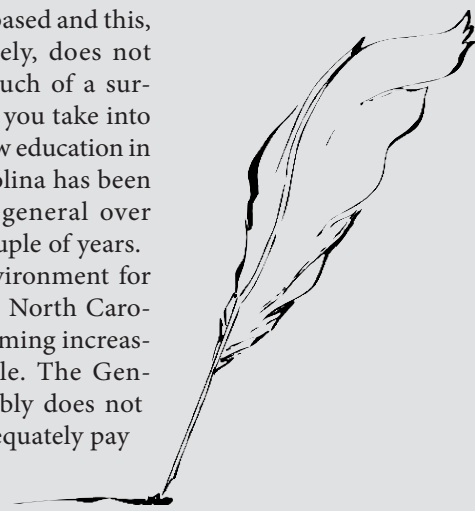
The environment for teaching in North Carolina is becoming increasingly hostile. The General Assembly does not want to adequately pay or equip teach-

ers and the Board of Governors wants to do away with multiple education programs.

From 2010 to 2014, there was a nearly 30 percent drop in students wanting to pursue careers in education, which is pretty concerning.

It seems like forces in North Carolina are almost determined to run teachers out of our state. Education should be at the top of the General Assembly and Board of Governors' priorities, but it is clear that is not the current case.

Tyrajia Sawyer Smith



Arrgh you interested in being a Columnist for The East Carolinian?



WEB PHOTO

Contact Zach Elsam at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com for details.

Poll results

Did you watch ECU's championship game?

Yes - 45%
No - 55%

Poll question

Do you agree with ECU's recent consolidation of foreign language programs?

Visit theeastcarolinian.com to vote.

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Kids' River Fest brings attention to local wildlife

Carlyn Legg
TEC STAFF

Sound Rivers will host its Kids' River Fest at River Park North in Greenville on Saturday. Free and open to the public, the festival will include free paddle boarding, kayaking, fishing and hayrides.

Although the festival is aimed at the family and child life community, anyone in Greenville is invited by the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education to join in on the festival's activities.

"Basically its an event for [people] in Greenville to come out to River Park North and have free events that are focused around the Tar River and the outdoors in general," said Matt Butler, environmental projects manager at Sound Rivers.

For the Greenville community, Sound Rivers intends to educate the public on what resources are available at River Park North.

"River Park North is a fantastic place in the city that is free to go out to. It has walking trails and kayaks for rent and fishing available and a nature center so you can see all the different types of nature that we have here in Greenville," said Butler.

With the goal to spread knowledge about wildlife and the effect Greenville residents have on local ecosystems, and an expected couple hundred people in attendance, the festival gives people of all ages the chance to learn.

"We will focus on and highlight the different things we have in the environment and the wildlife and give [people] the knowledge to know that they shouldn't pollute the river and they should pick up after themselves when they're out in nature," said Butler.

Many of the activities within the festival will be steered towards a younger audience but there will be no age limits on recreational activities throughout the festivities.

"We will have paddle boats and there will be fishing and hayrides," said Butler. "We'll also have a reptile show that will be done by the River Park staff."

East Carolina University students who may be interested in Greenville's wildlife and recreational resources will have the opportunity to explore River Park North for

> RIVER page A5

Uptown set for final Art Walk of summer

Carlyn Legg
TEC STAFF

This Friday will be the last chance of the summer for Greenville residents to attend the First Friday Art Walk in uptown. Included in the season finale of the series are the East Carolina Swing Dancers and a local jazz band.

"We are very excited to bring a jazz band and swing dance party to the streets of Greenville for this First Friday Art Walk," said Tiffany Gay, events and branding director at Uptown Greenville.

The art walk will kick off at 5 p.m. with the galleries opening their doors for people to view local art and get free refreshments. An hour later, the local jazz group Emerald City Big Band will play on the grassy area in front of the new Fourth Street parking deck. Afterwards, the East Carolina Swing Dancers will perform and give free swing dance lessons to anyone in attendance.

"We find that students tend to leave over the summer and we know a lot of people are traveling, so in the past there has been less of a demand for entrance to the galleries. A lot of them were closed during the summer," said Gay.

With plans to extend the program into next summer, Uptown Greenville has big goals for the future of the First Friday Art Walk.

"It's turned into more of a first Friday programming where we are not only offering great art on the walk, live music, live dance, but we've [also] included the retailers and the restaurants that are located uptown," said Gay. "Many offer special discounts and specials to people who come between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on every first Friday."

With the participation of local businesses, art galleries and live music, the First Friday Art Walk program has grown into a massive event that anticipates a few thousand Greenville residents coming out to see what local artists and entrepreneurs are doing in the community.

"This event enables our community to truly experience culture. This is a fantastic representation of the arts and the culture that we have in Greenville," said Gay. "It allows people in our community a chance to connect not only with one another but also connect to art that has been made by folks who are living, working, and playing in Greenville."

The summer finale event will set the foundation for the art walks to grow off of when it resumes in September.

"This is a fabulous event that gets bigger and better every month, especially with the more people that find out about it.



ARCHIVED | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A student waits on his self-portrait drawing at an uptown Art Walk.

We're always looking for something new and different and we are always trying to raise the bar in terms of live art," said Gay.

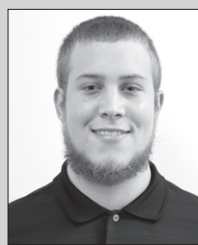
Acknowledging the local culture and art gives Greenville community members a chance to see what they are making, creating, and contributing to the city.

"The event is open to everyone and we hope to really target the whole community. Couples, families, college students – anybody can appreciate art and community on any level," Gay said.

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ALBUM REVIEW

Rocky lives up to the hype



Jesse Deal
TEC STAFF

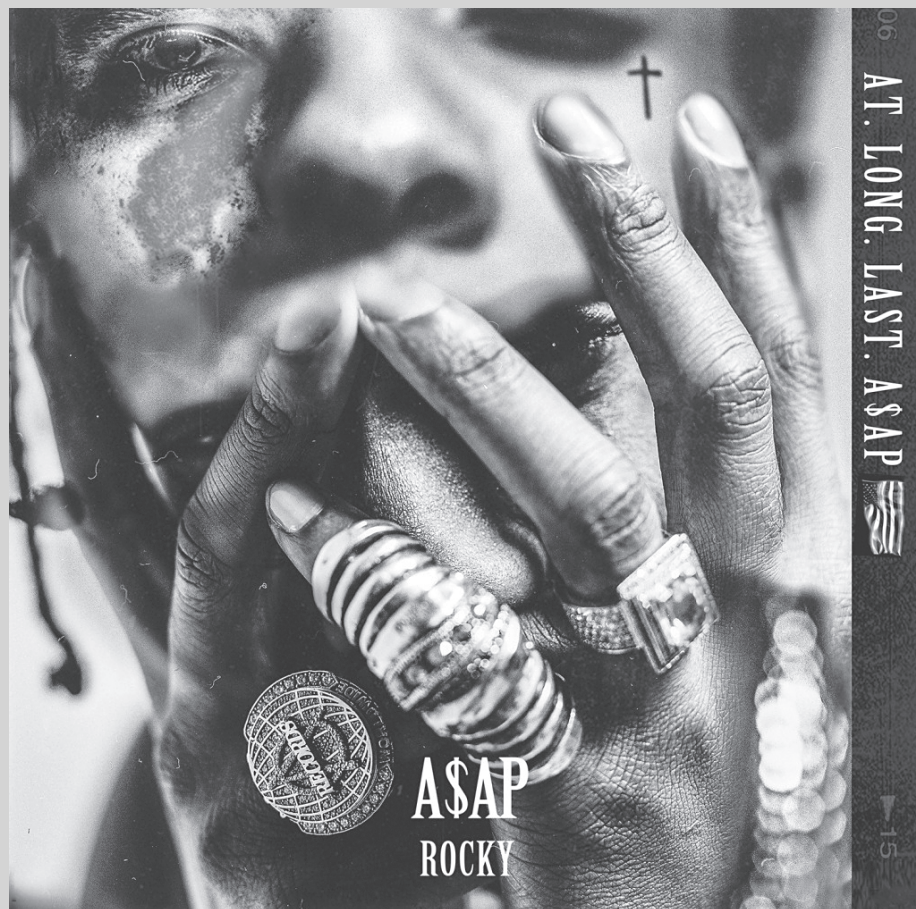
The year was 2011. Thanks to social media and an abundance of free content, a new generation of hip-hop collectives emerged on the music scene. The Black Hippy and Odd Future crews

began to take off on the west coast but in Harlem, N.Y., another group was making waves in the industry – the ASAP Mob.

Much has changed for the 11-member clan in the past four years: its Houston-influenced leader, ASAP Rocky, reached stardom in 2013 when his debut album, "Long.Live.A\$AP," hit number one on the Billboard 200, while his sidekick ASAP Ferg cracked the top ten of the charts with his record later that year.

Tragedy struck this past January when ASAP Yams, the founder of the crew and originator of its aesthetic, passed away from an accidental drug overdose at age 26. Rocky dealt with the loss of his best friend by burrowing in a London studio with hallucinogens and a heavy heart, and the result is his most comprehensive project yet, "At.Long.Last.A\$AP" (A.L.L.A.).

He recruited a varied cast to help him out, from rap heavyweights Kanye West and Lil Wayne (who delivers his best verse in years on "M\$"), to Mos Def and Rod Stewart, but what makes this album such an enjoyable listen is the presence of Rocky himself. His greatest asset as a rapper has always been his ability to effortlessly flow over wavy soundscapes but on A.L.L.A., his increased dedication to lyri-



"At.Long.Last.A\$AP" was released on May 26 and sold 116,131 copies during its first week.

cism is evident from the album's inception.

"They ask me why I don't go to church no more/Cause church is the new club and wine is the new bub," he explains over a wavy guitar sample, he explains over a "Holy Ghost," a scything testament against religious hypocrisy. On "L\$D" – the best song that Kid Cudi never recorded – Rocky croons about his admiration of

lysergic acid diethylamide over a hazy, ethereal beat.

Tracks like album highlight "Pharsyde" are melancholy reminders that Rocky has seen a lot in his 26 years of life.

"Gentrification split the nation that I once was raised in/I don't recall no friendly neighbor's face on my upraising," he confesses over Danger Mouse's

bass-rattling production.

On the drowsy interlude "Dreams," Rocky claims to have an answer for the problems he sees in the world – "I just had an epic dream like Dr. King/Police brutality was on my TV screen/Harmony, love, drugs and peace is all we need."

A.L.L.A. is an immaculately produced record (with co-executive assistance from ASAP Yams, Juicy J, and Danger Mouse) and it shows on the epic "Max B," where Rocky raps over percussion that sounds like it should be blasted atop the Great Pyramid of Giza. The track is coupled with a somber chorus from the record's secret weapon: Joe Fox, a street performer who approached Rocky in London with a guitar and a demo CD.

While Rocky occasionally gets entrapped in the rap clichés of boasting about wealth and fame, A.L.L.A.'s murky aura adds an element of despair to the sound, as if to question the ultimate worth of his vanity.

"I guess the new me is gon' take some getting used to," he ponders on the charismatic "Excuse Me". If he continues to create albums of this quality, his assessment might be a tad modest.

RATING:



4 out of 5

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

MOVIE REVIEW



COURTESY OF IMDB

Allison Ng and Brian Gilcrest, portrayed by Emily Stone and Bradley Cooper, meet in Hawaii and quickly fall in love in director Cameron Crowe's latest romantic comedy to hit the big screen.

'Aloha' fails to impress at box office

Ashley Federici
TEC STAFF

Director Cameron Crowe's romantic comedy, "Aloha," hit theaters this past Friday and despite its potential, the film landed at sixth in the box office and grossed only \$9,700,000. Unfortunately, the star-studded cast and big name director could not make up for the lacking plot.

With a cast of Bradley Cooper, Emma Stone, Rachel McAdams, John Krasinski, Alec Baldwin and Bill Murray, "Aloha" could have been one of the best movies of the summer. However, the plot bounces around, leaving not enough time for any character to fully develop or grow on the audience.

Bradley Cooper plays an ex-military man, Brian Gilcrest, who is now returning to Hawaii as a contractor for a billion dollar company to bless the opening of a pedestrian gate and launch a satellite. The relationship between these two tasks is very unclear. Cooper's character starts the film with a standoffish, mysterious attitude that fades away too quickly to be believable.

He arrives in Hawaii only to find that his ex-girlfriend Tracy – portrayed by McAdams – is now happily married to

another military man (played by Krasinski) with two children. Stone plays Captain Ng, Gilcrest's escort for his time in Hawaii. Her character is quirky (as usual) and appears to take her job a little too seriously. She also has a strange obsession with Hawaiian myths, therefore blurting out strange facts and stories sporadically throughout the film.

As predicted, Gilcrest and Ng end up falling in love. The film only takes place over the span of about a week, so it appears to the audience as if one minute the two are all business and the next they are madly in love – once again, barely believable. Meanwhile, Gilcrest and Tracy still have some sort of unfinished flame that stirs up trouble in Tracy's happy family.

In addition to all of the romance, Crowe awkwardly tries to include drama into the plot with a satellite launch sponsored by a billionaire played by Murray. The controversies with the satellite launch seems a little too serious to be so downplayed, and not exactly the type of drama that should be mixed into a summer rom-com based in Hawaii.

Watching "Aloha" feels as though you are bouncing between three different stories all with poorly developed characters. Setting the time span of the movie at a week

prevented the audience from being able to develop any emotional attachment to the characters or their relationships.

Besides a few chuckles every thirty minutes, the film was really lacking the comedy aspect – this could have something to do with the fact that Krasinski and Baldwin's characters had only about four lines. While it was definitely a let down, "Aloha" wasn't entirely painful to sit through. Crowe can get some credit for including the beautiful scenery of Hawaii and a great indie soundtrack.

RATING:



2.5 out of 5

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

Popular Summer Redbox rentals

Jesse Deal
TEC STAFF

Starring actress Jennifer Lopez, "The Boy Next Door" is currently the most popular movie rental at Redbox kiosks across the U.S., followed by the Jeff Bridges-led fantasy film, "Seventh Son," and the third movie in Liam Neeson's Taken franchise.

Two comedies – "Hot Tub Time Machine 2" and "The Wedding Ringer" – round out the top five rentals of the week. "Time Machine" stars Rob Corddry and Craig Robinson while "Ringer" is anchored by Josh Gad and comic Kevin Hart.

With around 35,000 locations in the U.S., Redbox is updated every Tuesday with the latest DVD, Blu-ray, and video game rentals.

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

1. **The Boy Next Door**
2. **Seventh Son**
3. **Taken 3**
4. **Hot Tub Time Machine 2**
5. **The Wedding Ringer**
6. **The Gambler**
7. **The Cobbler**
8. **Paddington**
9. **Mortdecai**
10. **Cut Bank**



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Located at Mumford Road in Greenville, River Park North has 324 acres of land and five ponds.

RIVER continued from A4

a free day of instructive advice on caring for the outdoors.

"[People will have] the opportunity to explore the outdoors that they may not have been able to do in the past, [where they can] have a time to come out and have fun," said Butler.

An event was held last year at the Greenville Town Commons and with a new location at River Park North, there is more space and opportunity for the event to grow into an annual festival of learning for the

Greenville community.

"We did something similar last summer at the Town Commons in Greenville and we had a couple hundred [people] and we're hoping to build on that for this year," said Butler.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at River Park North, families, children, and students can go out and learn about the environment and the opportunities provided by Sound Rivers.

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

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Classifieds & Puzzles

theeastcarolinian.com

Wednesday, 6.3.15

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backyard w/ ample parking. Lawn service included. Contact Jeff at 252.327.4433

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OTHER

Attend Pound the Sound Triathlon, benefiting Bertie County YMCA and Windsor Rotary on June 13. <http://poundthesound.com>

The Town of Windsor is offering a variety of unpaid internships, mostly in the Parks and Recreation Department. Please call Max for more info, 252-367-0367.

COMICS

BEST IN SHOW



BREWSTER ROCKET



PUZZLES

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

8		2	6		5	9		
	4							7
		5						
	3	4			5	6	7	
				8				
		6	1	9		5	3	
							1	
	2							4
		1	5		2			8

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE 6/3/15

2	8	5	7	4	6	9	3	1
9	4	6	3	5	1	2	7	8
1	7	3	2	9	8	6	4	5
4	3	8	6	1	9	7	5	2
5	6	1	8	2	7	4	9	3
7	2	9	4	3	5	1	8	6
6	9	7	1	8	3	5	2	4
8	1	2	5	7	4	3	6	9
3	5	4	9	6	2	8	1	7

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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FOR RELEASE JUNE 3, 2015

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- Gothic literature middle name
- Sound of relief
- Tells
- Olympus competitor
- Lobster ___
- Diavolo
- Talked a blue streak
- Violent whirlpool
- "Split apart"
- "Working, working, working"
- Bashful
- Per person
- Pinch
- Part of Q.E.D.
- Asian holiday
- Transcript fig.
- Georgie, to Georgette
- "1967 NHL Calder Memorial Trophy recipient"
- Sound
- Game show prize
- Long tales
- "Half-hitch kin"
- With 64-Across, tax shelter since 1998
- "Power" accessory
- Uppike's "Rabbit Redux," e.g.: Abbr.
- Longtime Saudi king
- Tater
- Ancient Israeli fortress
- "Workout washboards"
- "And it took long enough!"
- "Backup option"
- Vibrator in the larynx
- Public opening?
- See 43-Across
- Low-price prefix
- Really cracks up
- Volleyball barrier
- Carved emblem

DOWN

- Soprano Gluck and composer Mahler-Werfel
- Chihuahua lead
- Stretch out next to
- Censorship-fighting org.
- Bahamas port
- Hiding under the covers
- Tossed off the covers
- Poor choice to play 48-Down
- Creamy cheese
- Like Olympic pools
- Picnic invader
- Moment of stage gratitude
- ___Cat: winter vehicle
- Profer's find
- U.K. network, with "the"
- Disco phrase
- Nursery rhyme surname
- Strident
- Cotton swab brand
- "Conan" channel
- Bridge positions
- Cup-shaped bloom
- "Cheers," across the Channel
- Ball striker
- Play area
- Endorsements

Last Week's Puzzle Solved

V	C	R	S	T	O	M	P	T	T	U	B	S
A	R	E	A	W	A	R	E	N	O	V	A	E
N	E	W	K	I	S	S	T	H	E	G	O	R
G	A	R	D	E	N	R	O	X	A	N	N	E
O	M	O	S	T	I	L	T	D	O	C		
G	E	T	H	O	T	C	H	E	D	B	E	N
H	R	E	M	O	O	R	S	A	X	E		
C	I	A	O	W	A	C	O	H	M	O		
M	O	N	Y	B	R	I	G	H	T	E	E	D
A	V	A	L	I	E	N	S	P	D	A	Y	
R	E	D	I	A	L	S		S	P	U	R	N
C	R	A	Z	Y	E	I	G	H	T	S	A	D
O	U	Z	O	S		S	E	E	Y	A	N	E
S	P	E	D									
T	E	N	E	T								
T	R	Y										

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HOROSCOPES

By Nancy Black
TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Fulfill a fantasy. The next two days bring lots of career movement. Discover an option that was previously hidden. Trust a crazy hunch. Intuition provides the best timing. Dreams provide insight. Listen to your angels.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Plan your vacation over the next few days. Begin a period of study and research. Dream big. Your wanderlust is getting worse. Travel and fun are favored. Give in to a romantic fantasy. Add splashes of color.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Review and

make changes with shared finances today and tomorrow. Go over the numbers, and handle administrative details. Publicity works wonders. Point out the positives. A new power suit would be nice. Encourage a loved one's creativity.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Work with a partner over the next few days. Negotiate to refine the plan. Don't be afraid if you don't know how to do something. Your instincts work well. Explore new possibilities. Open heart and mind. Listen and learn.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Focus on your work for the next few days. Replenish your reserves. Don't over-extend. Increase your family's com-

fort. Push for productivity and increased earnings. You have what you need. Learn from an engineering type. Success boosts your self-esteem.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Fun is the name of the game today and tomorrow. Let someone else drive for a while so you can play. Consider a romantic intrigue. Invent something wonderful. Find a new way to express your feelings. Get creative.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- The next two days are good for making changes. Home and family take priority. Invest in efficiency. Follow your inner impulse. Others value your problem-solving creativity. Build on a loved one's idea.

Find what you need stored away.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Soak up your studies today and tomorrow. You're especially clever with communications. Ponder choices. Get creative. Accept advice from loved ones and especially children. Write your thoughts. A very beneficial development comes if you wait. Enjoy an outing.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Work and make money today and tomorrow. Keep organized and stick to your schedule. Repay a favor. Your work attracts attention. Watch for gift surprises, and provide some for your family. Do something nice. Make an amazing discovery.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- You're growing stronger today and tomorrow. Begin a confident phase. Make important connections. Accept more assignments, including a lucky break. Continue to build hidden wealth. Abundance is available. Be willing to learn new tricks. Abandon expectations.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 9 -- You're entering a two-day pensive phase. Get into planning mode. Look at the big picture to discover hidden opportunities. Intuition guides you. Keep your word. Grab an opportunity. Help your team succeed. Get farther than expected.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Today and

tomorrow favor working as a team. Set up meetings and conferences. Come up with a brilliant solution to a persistent problem. Clean up a mess. Someone else is pleased to drive. Others believe in you.

(Astrologer Nancy Black continues her mother Linda Black's legacy horoscopes column. She welcomes comments and questions on Twitter, @lindablack. For more astrological interpretations visit www.lindablack.com and www.nancyblack.com)

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Brooks earns All-Regional Team honors

Staff Report

While East Carolina baseball's offense cooled off in the Coral Gables Regional last weekend, Garrett Brooks heated up and was one of three outfielders chosen to the All-Regional Team and the lone Pirate voted on to the team.



Garrett Brooks

Brooks had four hits in six trips during the Pirates' two games in the regional, including a perfect 3-for-3 day in the elimination game against Florida International.

Brooks was left stranded in scoring position twice as the Pirates were shutout by the Panthers, 2-0 Saturday.

Brooks ended his season as strong as anyone on the team and was named American Athletic Conference Player-of-the-Week on May 18 while going 4-for-7 and hitting two home runs in ECU's final games of the season.

Brooks continued his strong play into the conference tournament where he produced strong at bats consistently while the Pirates worked their way to the championship game.

Brooks joined Miami's Willie Abreu and Ricky Eusebio as the outfield selections. Columbia had four players chosen to the team while FIU had Austin Rodriguez as its lone selection.

Miami led the way five players chosen to the All-Regional team with five, including the Most Outstanding Player in David Thompson.

The team was selected by media members after the Regional Championship game Monday night where Miami topped Columbia and moved on to host the Super Regional.

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

ECU sets foundation

Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina baseball team finished its surprising 2015 season with a 2-0 loss to Florida International in its second game of the Coral Gables Regional.

Cliff Godwin, American Athletic Conference Coach-of-the-Year for the Pirates, said that he was proud of his team's effort.

"When we started this season not one person outside of our locker room thought we could win 40 games and win the American Conference Tournament championship," said Godwin.

The Pirates entered the AAC this season with a rookie head coach and a team that had a solid season in Conference USA the year before, but were moving into a tougher conference. The AAC last year was ranked sixth in conference RPI, while C-USA was eighth.

The Pirates lost seven seniors to graduation, and needed for freshmen and other inexperienced players to step up.

Despite losing those experienced players, the Pirates were picked to finish third in the conference, behind Houston and Central Florida.

But the Pirates believed in themselves and finished second in the regular season and won the conference tournament championship, which gave the Pirates a No. 2 seed in



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Cliff Godwin looks out to the field during his team's scrimmage.

the NCAA Regionals.

In the short term, someone could say the Pirates came up short in the NCAA tournament as a No. 2 seed. However, Godwin understands that this season was important for the long-term success of his team.

"It wasn't in the cards for us to win today, but I'm extremely proud of our guys and the future of East Carolina baseball," said Godwin.

This year was a big bounce back year for the program. The Pirates had not made Regionals since 2012 and had not won 40 games since 2011. The Pirates also won their first conference tournament championship since its inaugural season in C-USA in 2002.

Godwin said that this year was an important building block for the program.

"They learned how to win this year," said Godwin. "We

won a championship. When they're 40-years-old, they're going to have a championship trophy sitting in the East Carolina locker room and say, 'Hey I won a championship.'"

Reid Love, the team's anchor utility player pitched his last game at the collegiate level against FIU.

"It's tough, but it just didn't go our way today," said Love. "I love these guys and these guys fought until the end."

Allen, the AAC's tournament Most Outstanding Player, said that the team had a good season, but must keep moving forward.

"Coach said in the huddle out there, we're back on the map a little bit and we just have to keep working and pushing those guys and keep motivating them even though we aren't playing anymore," said Allen. "We just have to keep pushing them to get better and to keep getting after it because we can't be satisfied with what we've done this year."

Ingle said that this year was great experience and said that the captains of the team were always there for him and the younger players on the team.

"I think these guys set an example for each guy on the team," said Ingle. "I think that everybody needs to follow them and if we do that we will be successful from here on out."

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

LPGA Foundation awards Kirk

Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

Katie Kirk, the recently graduated golfer for East Carolina, received the 2015 Dinah Shore Trophy last week.

The award is given for excellence in the classroom, on the golf course and leadership in the community. Kirk graduated this year from ECU with a Bachelor's of Science in economics and Master of Arts in mathematics with a 3.99 (undergrad) /4.0 (graduate) grade point average.

Kirk has won many awards in her time at ECU, but this one is her favorite honors because of what it gives back to the university.

"Some of the awards are great because they bring scholarship money in my name," said Kirk. "I like this one the most because it brings publicity to our golf program, and gives something back to them (remaining members of the Women's golf team)."

Her coach, Kevin Williams, said that the award and everything it brings to the program is important.

"This is a great honor for her," said Williams. "This is great for our program, because we get a \$10,000 check from the LPGA foundation."

Kirk is glad to be able to help the program, because East Carolina women's golf program has been important for her life.

"What's so special about getting that award is it's already given me an opportunity to give back to the university," said Kirk. "These past four years, ECU's Women's Golf program has really been everything for me."

Kirk said that she grew up fast as a golfer in the ECU program. While she was a senior this year and mentored two freshmen on the team, she said that her sophomore year was the beginning of her leadership role on the team.

"My sophomore year we had no seniors," said Kirk. "I had to step up to the plate at times as a younger player."

Although, this award means a lot to her, it is not her favorite golf moment. She birdied her last golf hole of her collegiate career, and she said that is her

favorite moment in golf.

Many winners of this award go on to have careers in the LPGA. The last winner Emily Tubert has played on the LPGA. Amy Anderson, the 2012 winner, had her rookie season last year. But the most special winner to Kirk is her favorite golfer; Stacy Lewis. Stacy Lewis won the award in 2007.

"Stacy Lewis is top in the world," said Kirk. "To see that I received the same honor that she has it gives me inspiration and motivation."

Kirk said that she thinks the team's future is bright, and that the program will become better going forward.

"We have a lot of talent," said Kirk. "I can definitely see this team making it to nationals in the next five or ten years, at least once."

Kirk plans to stay at ECU for graduate school for about two years. She plans to try to play some professional golf while she goes to grad schools. She plans to use her education to become an actuary.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS

Katie Kirk follows through on a swing early this season. The senior was awarded the Dinah Shore Trophy last week, which recognizes a golfer that excels on the course and in the classroom.

TAKEAWAYS

BASEBALL

ECU was eliminated in two games in the Coral Gables Regional as it fell to Columbia, 6-3 and FIU, 2-0.

BASEBALL

Garrett Brooks was the lone Pirate named to the All-Regional Team after picking up four hits in six trips during the two games.

TRACK & FIELD

Avion Jones and Aiesha Goggins qualified for the NCAA Championships in Eugene, Ore. from June 10-13.

ECU

A school-record 10 ECU programs earned perfect single-year APR scores for the 2013-14 academic year.

MEN'S GOLF

Wes Conover was named to the All-East Region Team by the Golf Coaches Association of America.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Antonio Robinson will workout for the Charlotte Hornets in preparation for the upcoming NBA draft today.

ONLINE



Follow us on Twitter, @TEC_Sports for ECU sports coverage.



www.theeastcarolinian.com



Avion Jones clears a jump during ECU's home meet this season at the Bill Carson Invitational. Jones is one of two Pirates making the trip to Eugene, Ore. for the NCAA Championships with Goggins. MICHAEL SEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Jones, Goggins earn NCAA bids

Alison Jobe
TEC STAFF

East Carolina was carried by two star athletes at the 2015 NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field East Regionals.

Aiesha Goggins and Avion Jones will be representing ECU as they return to the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Ore.

"Anytime you get to [Regionals], it's always a high pressure situation. If you don't come in on point, the competition gets the best of you," Head Coach Curt Kraft said. "Some did very well, like Aiesha and Avion who are going to Oregon. Overall, it was a very good meet since we moved two people onto the team."

Redshirt senior Aiesha Goggins competed in the 400-meter dash at the East Regionals with a time of

52.63 in the preliminary round. Goggins recorded a time of 51.81 in the semi-finals. She finished in the top 10 in both the preliminaries and the semi-finals, moving her to the finals.

"I felt pretty confident. It's all or nothing and we put a lot of gas in the tank," Goggins said.

Junior Avion Jones tied for first in the men's high jump preliminaries with a clearance of 2.13 meters. Jones advanced to the Championships alongside Goggins.

"I felt pretty confident, but I couldn't go into [the East Regionals] with a cocky point of view because anything can happen," Jones said. "I've been there before [NCAA Outdoor Championships] so I'll be prepared and have experience under my belt. Motivation is hard, but I just try and stay focused and give myself a new goal each day."

The Pirates took 16 athletes to compete at the East Regionals, although only two will move on to the outdoor championships.

"Anytime you qualify that many to a regional, it's an accomplishment. I think that's the second most we've ever taken," Kraft said.

On the track junior Cheyenne Hutchinson recorded a time of 13.56 in the women's 100-meter hurdles, making it a top 30 finish. Junior Janieyah Collins finished the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:01.01.

Senior Tania Minkins posted a qualifying time of 11.57 in the 100-meter dash preliminaries and a time of 11.56 in the semi-finals.

In the field action, freshman Galissia Cause and senior Kaylee Redon both came in short of moving onto the semi-finals. Cause saw a 14.05-meter in the shot put. Redon

competed in the hammer throw with a 50.85-meter throw.

For the men, sophomore Joey Muzzio turned in a career-best mark of 2.04-meters in the high jump, however, that was not enough to advance him further. Junior Demonte Wilson posted a time of 14.47 in the 110-meter hurdles preliminaries.

The men's 400-hurdles were taken on by freshman Xavier Brown, sophomore Rodney Johnson and junior Chandler Chase. Brown advanced to the semi-finals with a time of 51.56 and Johnson followed him with a time of 51.63, also advancing. Johnson had a personal record time of 51.49 in the semi-finals, and Brown finished with a time of 51.72.

Senior Henry Johnson competed in the pole vault posting a

mark of 5.00-meters, coming in just shy of qualifying.

"Overall, it's been a very good season. We've had a lot of young student-athletes on the team. We've done really well. We look forward to next year, and we're excited about the fall," Kraft said.

The 2015 Division I Men's and Women's Track and Field Outdoor Championships begin June 10 and go through until June 13.

"They've been at this level before; they've been to the National Championships before. They both have experience, they've been there and so they know what to expect. Once you've been there you know how to handle it," Kraft said.

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BASEBALL continued from A1

-nominal offensive coach, Lowery has a chance to become one of the best bats in the AAC.

Two important bullpen arms will return for the Pirates in 2015 in the form of freshman star Joe Ingle and rising senior Nick Durazo. Ingle posted a team-low 1.14 ERA while Durazo registered a 2.77 ERA with a 5-1 record.

Arguably the most important returning starter for the Pirates will be rising redshirt junior Travis Watkins. Watkins managed the pitching staff well in his return from a season-ending injury his first sophomore campaign. In 60 games, Watkins belted three home runs with 36 RBIs, good for second most on the team, and held the team's fourth highest batting average at .292.

Garrett Brooks brokeout in his junior season with a .270 average and showed pop as he hit his first three career home runs. Brooks is a defensive stud, showing great range in center field and a strong arm, with four outfield assists while he was a part of three double plays this season.

Charlie Yorgen is a part of the strong rising junior class and played in all 62 games the Pirates played this season. Yorgen was a solid hitter at .283 and was consistently on base as he drew a team-high 31 walks.

There will be an open position on the left side of the infield, depending on the position choice for Morgan next season - who is capable of playing both third and short. Jackson Mims, a rising sophomore, can play third base and is a solid bat as he recorded a .280 batting average in 36 games.

Barring the loss of multiple expected returning starters, the Diamond Bucs future is as bright as it has been in recent years.

Godwin has reinvigorated the program and with a season that produced 40 wins and a conference championship already under his belt, there is hope yet despite the heartbreaking and abrupt end to the 2015 season.

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Key Returning Players

Luke Lowery*



OF/1B/C

.311 Average

49 RBI

Kirk Morgan



3B/SS

.293 Average

17 RBI

Travis Watkins



C

.292 Average

36 RBI

Evan Kruczynski



LHP

3.17 ERA

8-4 Record

Nick Durazo*



LHP

2.77 ERA

5-1 Record

Joe Ingle



RHP

1.14 ERA

1-0 Record

*Eligible for 2015 MLB June Draft

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