



SGA candidates begin their campaign

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Student Government Association campaigning for the next academic year has officially begun, with candidates kicking off their push for seats last Wednesday.

SGA is set to host the SGA Presidential Debate Monday, Feb. 20 at 5 p.m. in the Science and Technology building in room C209. Students are welcomed and encouraged to attend in order to learn more about the candidates on each ticket and their various platforms at the debate.

While most students chose to run and campaign on their own, some opt to group

themselves behind other candidates running for general seats or for executive offices who run on a ticket system.

Each ticket represents a presidential candidate and a vice presidential candidate who run together and get a ticket number. Often students running for executive offices run their campaign around the candidate names or their ticket number.

For executive tickets, as long as a candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes, there will be no need for a runoff voting session. In the case that no ticket receives 50 percent or more, the top two voted tickets will compete in a second round of voting.

Candidates in this election running for

executive offices include student body president and student body vice president. Cooper Kinsey and Michelle Kellett are running on Ticket 1. Gio Triana and Jasmine Hardy are on Ticket 2. La'Quon Rogers and Ryan Smith are running on Ticket 3. Joseph Ward and Aiden Kautz are running on Ticket 4.

Ticket 1, Kinsey and Kellett, are running on platform which focuses on the three core principles of "Service, Governance, and Advocacy." The team plans to create an online portal where students can voice ideas and concerns in order to create a link between SGA and the student community. Readers can find more information on these candidates and their platforms at their website, mkellett327.wixsite.com/ecuticket1 or their twitter account, @SGA_TicketONE1.

com/ecuticket1 or their twitter account, @SGA_TicketONE1.

Ticket 2, Triana and Hardy, are listening to what ECU students say as "Parrot's Listen to Pirates." A large portion of this team's platform is to work towards preventing sexual assault and alleviate the stress of ECU's parking system, by partnering with Uber to provide safe transportation to students. Readers can find more information on these candidates and their platforms at their website, <https://www.trianahardy.com/> or their twitter account, @ECUTicket2.

Ticket 3, Rogers and Smith, are focusing on a campaign rooted in strategy as they
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ANDREW CARROLL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Performers raise their fists during the Annual Black History Month Showcase Sunday.

Black History Showcase

Students highlight eras of African-American history

Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

African-American pioneers of the past were commemorated amidst acts of tantalizing talent in East Carolina University's first annual Black History Month Showcase, held in Hendrix Theatre Sunday evening.

From the Black Panther Party to the melodic era of music that was the 1990s, ECU's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter made sure to encompass the controversy, culture and change that solidifies the past and present of African-American history.

"A lot of mental work went into the show, as far as the vision we had for the show coming to life," said Andria Brown, president of ECU's NAACP chapter. "As a NAACP chapter on a majority white campus, it is important to highlight black history in a large scale way."

The showcase was comprised of nine different acts by nine different organizations and groups from the ECU and greater Greenville community. Hosted by ECU students Courtney Williams and Jonathan McDougal, the duo succeeded in generating lighthearted laughter amidst some of the darker issues that were brought up in the ceremony, complete with

comedic choreography and trivia opportunities for members of the audience to earn their "black card."

"For me, just being asked to contribute was a huge honor," said Williams. "I've never done something like this before, and I just hope that all who attended gained some knowledge and appreciation for all that black people have done for our nation."

Starting off the show was Gearing Up, a mentoring program at ECU that focuses on kindergarten to 12th grade student outreach in the Greenville community. Taking the audience on a time warp trip to the Motown era, members from the outreach organization each took on personas of artists such as Diana Ross, Rick James, and neo-soul singer Erykah Badu by lip synching to their hit songs and dressing up as them from head to toe.

Next, F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe made the transition from the music to the movement of the Black Panthers. Clothed in T-shirts with trending hashtags such as #BlackLivesMatter and #PowerToThePeople, the models stood shrouded in the stage spotlights. Police sirens blared over the speakers as they danced to songs such as "Freedom" by Beyonce and "New Slaves" by Kanye West, with the lyrics laden with perspective about living in

black skin.

As the stage lights faded from red to black, ECU student Candra Walls stepped into a beaming white spotlight to deliver a spoken word about white privilege. Wearing a T-shirt with political activist Angela Davis on it, Walls' voice shook with passion and conviction as the audience validated her words with cheers and applause.

"You can look at the texture of our hair and the color of our skin and automatically know that white privilege does not apply," said Walls during the delivery of her spoken word. "When I say black lives matter, I feel like you're calling me racist. When I say black lives matter that doesn't mean yours does not."

With the end of Barack Obama's presidency still fresh on the minds of the nation's people, acts dedicated to the legacy of the first African-American president were a sure-fire way to stir the atmosphere in the room. The first part of the Obama tribute started with a skit from the Black Student Union that focused on each of Obama's accomplishments that took place over his eight years in office.

Taking us back in time to the year of 2008, the skit starts with two Black Student Union members,

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Williams-Sutton aims to avoid sophomore slump

Sean Finnerty
TEC STAFF

A lot has changed over the past seven years for East Carolina baseball player Dwanya Williams-Sutton.

He started playing little league baseball as a 12-year-old, where he didn't have a single hit his entire first season. Six years later, Williams-Sutton was a freshman for ECU, and led the conference in hitting as the Pirates finished the season one game away from making it to the College World Series.

Now, entering his sophomore year, the 19-year-old finds himself named to preseason All-America teams as he hopes to help lead his team to a national championship. As Williams-Sutton's baseball career moves

forward, he aims to maintain his impressive learning curve to help reach his goals of winning a championship and making it to Major League Baseball.

Williams-Sutton's baseball journey began back in his hometown of Wilson, North Carolina. At age 12, he signed up for Little League baseball for the first time. There, he was spotted by Earl Taylor, the coach of the local travel baseball team, the Wilson Pelicans. Even though Williams-Sutton was new to baseball, his athletic ability was easy to see.

"(Taylor) told me to come practice for his travel team," Williams-Sutton said. "He told me I was very athletic, even though I didn't have one hit in Little League when I was 12."

Even under the tutelage of Taylor, Wil-

liams-Sutton continued to struggle adjusting to baseball. But with Taylor's guidance and support Williams-Sutton continued working hard, learning how to hit and catch pop flies.

"One day he hit some pop flies to me. I dropped a couple and got down on myself," Williams-Sutton said. "(Taylor) said, 'You're one of the most athletic people I've ever seen,' and from then on he just taught me how to be a better player."

Even as Williams-Sutton showed great improvement as a baseball player, it wasn't obvious he'd pick baseball to play at the collegiate level. Due to his impressive athletic ability, he was a three-sport star at Greenfield High School, a private school in Wilson he attended for his junior and senior years.

Along with being named a two-time North Carolina 1A All-State pick in baseball, Williams-Sutton was voted to the all-state team in soccer, after scoring a team-high 24 goals and leading Greenfield to the state semifinals. The 6-foot-1 outfielder was also successful on the hard court, as he was named all-conference as a center his senior year, and might've been all-state if not for a wrist injury on his shooting hand that limited his offensive production for most of the season.

As Williams-Sutton got older and needed to decide which sport to focus on, it was Taylor once again who helped shape his baseball career. Williams-Sutton said it was Taylor's guidance as a coach and his

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ONLINE

» ECU students participate in 'Moral March' at State Capitol

» Pitt County Commissioners vote against City's hate crime resolution

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

ECU Board of Trustees to meet

East Carolina University's Board of Trustees and its committees are set to meet in regular session Thursday and Friday at the Murphy Center on ECU's Athletic Complex.

During the full board meeting which is scheduled to start Friday 9 a.m., the board will hear reports from the UNC Board of Governors, Faculty Senate, Faculty Staff, Student Government Association, Board of Visitors and the standing committees.

City Launches new website

Greenville's Office of Economic Development launched a new website growgreenville.com in hopes of attracting more business, industry and investment. The new website is designed to be more user friendly and will include a searchable database to promote buildings and sites.

The site will additionally provide a link to the Office of Economic Development's new virtual building which will be ready for business in 10 months.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Seth Gullede at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

Pitt County Schools decrease dropout rate

Cayla Rodney
TEC STAFF

Reports from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction revealed that during the 2015-16 school year, Pitt County Schools have significantly decreased in the number of dropouts, school crime and violence rates.

The 23 percent decrease in dropout rates resulted in only 150 Pitt County students dropping out in 2015-16 versus the 195 students during the 2014-15 school year. Over the last three years, Pitt County has developed the third largest dropout decrease in the state, according to a statement from Pitt County Schools.

This increase in graduation rate has been seen across the board in North Carolina high schools. The state reported 10,889 dropouts in 2015-16 school year which equates to a 4.2 percent decline from the previous school year. In the state, Hispanics had the highest dropout rate followed by black, multiracial, American Indian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students who all were above the average dropout percentage in the state. Asian and caucasian students were the only ones above the state average.

"To help keep students from dropping out of school, our focus has been on keeping students, from kindergarten through high school graduation, engaged in learning and to minimize barriers to their academic success," said Ethan Lenker, superintendent of Pitt County School in a recent press release.

The county says it aims to continue to fulfill its mission to create "a system of excellence partnering with family and community to prepare students to function effectively in a rapidly changing world by developing global citizens through academic excellence."

The success of the state's public education is extremely important to East Carolina University. With an average of 68 percent of ECU's College of Education graduates becoming licensed teachers in North Carolina, the university has a direct impact on these statistics.

To combat dropout rates in North Carolina schools, ECU prepares these future teachers to keep students eager to learn.

"We have state and national standards when it comes to providing an engaging classroom environment," said Vivian Covington, executive director of undergraduate affairs and educator preparations. "Certain strategies to engage students are woven

throughout our program during a student's senior and junior year."

To ensure students have acquired these skills, they are required to pass the edTPA before receiving their license. For this assessment, aspiring teachers write a lesson plan and then videotape themselves teaching the lesson. ECU faculty and a national board evaluate the various factors, but specifically the ability for all students to comprehend what was taught.

The edTPA reported that it is "used by more than 600 teacher preparation programs in some 40 states to emphasize, measure and support the skills and knowledge that all teachers need from day one in the classroom."

This program, along with the curriculum provided by ECU, is giving teachers in North Carolina the skills to keep students in school.

In the report, the Pitt County Schools also showed a 27 percent decrease in instances of crime or violence from the 2014-15 school year. During the 2014-15 year there were 89 cases while the 2015-16 school year only produced 65 cases.

Pitt County Schools issued 25 long-term suspensions, but no expulsions for the 2015-16 school year. Nine thousand short-term suspensions were reported for grades K-12.

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support programs are being implemented in every school across the county to address these behavioral issues among students.

"We must continue to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for our students," said Lenker. "This data demonstrates that we are making progress in keeping our schools and our students safe, but we must remain vigilant and continue to enlist the assistance of our parents and our community in this effort."

Statewide there was a 2.3 percent increase from 2014-15's total of 86,578 short-term suspension to 2015-16's 88,559 short-term suspensions.

These suspended students during the 2015-16 school year were disproportionately represented by male students, black and American Indian students, ninth graders and students receiving special education services.

The need for teachers to not only be able to teach

10,889 students dropped out of public school in North Carolina during 2015-16 school year.

150 students dropped out of public schools in Pitt County during the 2015-16 school year.

but also address behavioral issues has changed the way educators prepare for their jobs. Covington said ECU has "implemented methods classes and courses so teachers understand learning motivation and can assess educational psychology."

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

S.H.O.E.S. event raises awareness on mental health

Cookie Brower

FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

When students on campus woke up Thursday morning, they may have seen colorful sticky notes with uplifting messages for them to read on buses. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday the S.H.O.E.S. committee placed hundreds of shoes with stories attached to each pair across the East Carolina University.

Each shoe was used to tell specific students' mental illness issues that are present on campus. Many students stopped in to see what was going on, but by looking deeper, students learned that mental illness is on the rise among college campuses.

S.H.O.E.S., which stands for Students Honoring Others' Everyday Struggles, hosts this annual event which aims to highlight

mental health issues among college students.

"Students Honoring Others' Everyday Struggles is a program where students are always affected by anxiety, depression, mental health issues and they can come to this program and they walk around and see a pair of shoes and they are reading a story," said Marcus Silver, assistant director of Campus Living. "They know someone else is affected by the same thing that they're resonating with."

The S.H.O.E.S. committee brought members of the counseling center to the event so students can see what resources are available for them if they need help.

"We have a staff going for the university this summer to present this program to all the colleges across the country, and then we are going to another conference in Providence,

Rhode Island to showcase this program so other colleges can implement this on their college campus," Silver said.

Silver said ECU is not the only university that deals with these types of issues.

"ECU isn't the only school whose students are going through mental health, anxiety and depression. We want it to be developed on every college campus across the country," he said.

Committee member of S.H.O.E.S., Troy Nance, a junior studying political science and security studies, said the stories attached to the shoes are written by ECU students and faculty members to help bring awareness to campus issues.

"We have the sticky notes up all over the place, in the residence halls and on the busses

as well if you saw them, and the positive message on the screens," Nance said. "It's just really an accumulation of multiple organizations. I just want them to know that they are not alone. We are all Pirates here, and we are all looking out for each other."

Junior psychology major Ashton Light, who attended the event, said, "I think it helps a lot of people become aware, remember and bring people together who might not come forward with the situation."

Junior communication major Nato Walcott added, "It lets people know that there are people they can talk to."

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Gio Triana



Joseph Ward



Cooper Kinsey



La'Quon Rodgers

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"Empower ECU Forward." The pair would like to impact ECU as they work with the school's administration to improve campus safety, promote student unity and campus safety as they aim to enrich the relationship between SGA and the students they serve.

Readers can find more information on these candidates and their platforms at their website, <https://www.rogerssmith.org/> or their twitter account, @Ticket3Ecu.

Ticket 4, Ward and Kautz, have the goal of addressing the needs they feel are important to students at ECU.

These candidates would like to increase the student body's awareness of issues on campus by sending out weekly updates on what SGA accomplishes. Readers can find more information on these candidates and their platforms at their website, <http://w-k17.com/>.

With executive offices and close to 60 General Assembly seats available in this election, there is plenty of room for success in next year's group of SGA officials.

The General Assembly positions can represent ECU's student body at large, specific class or college representatives.

There are several candidates running for open general assembly seats as well.

Haley Creef and Savannah Mann are competing for the one available seat for the sophomore class. Daniel Disano and Makenzie Evans are competing for the one junior class seat available.

Wyatt Bland and Troy Nance are in the running for the one senior class seat.

"The purpose of the SGA Elections is to ensure a fair, organized way for students to elect their SGA Executives and Student Assembly to represent their voice and to promote the importance of student voice and voter turnout in choosing the SGA elected officers," according to the SGA Elections homepage.

Any student who wishes to vote may do so using Pirate Port starting at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22. Voting ends on Friday, Feb. 24, at 5 p.m.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting Feb. 16, The East Carolinian will produce articles leading up to the election date. Each story will include the presidential and vice presidential candidates in order to give students at ECU the opportunity to research each ticket.

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

SHOWCASE continued from A1

one an excited voter ready to support Obama in the polls and the other a skeptic who feels that Obama's race will be a barrier to winning the election. The skeptical man is then visited by another BSU member, dressed as President Obama, and is shown all of the things that were accomplished during the course of the 44th president's two terms.

"Coming up with the concept of the skit was initially a challenge, but we knew we had to making Obama the centerfold had to be our priority," said junior communication major Tamar Turner, president of BSU. "I was very proud to watch how it came together on stage."

ECU students, senior Janae Brown and junior David Warren III, also paid homage to the love story of the president and first lady, Barack and Michelle Obama. The couple stood back to back, speaking with a romanticized flair while they talked about how the two met in school and about their initial skepticisms when giving their love a chance. They then also touched on the beauty of black love, and how individuals should embrace the truth of romance rather than the falsehoods the media and pop culture can display to disorient how black love is "supposed to look like."

Arguably the most captivating performance of the night was given by the youngest group, the Wellcome Middle School Wellcome Steppers. Dedicated to the Black Lives Matter movement, the group closed by paying homage to both Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown, having two members of the step team perform a dance routine in black hoodies and shouting the infamous protest slogan of "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," which earned them a standing ovation.

"This vision came to life, thanks to each and every single group that worked to make our showcase a success on that stage," said Brown. "I think we've set the bar high for more and more showcases to come in the future."

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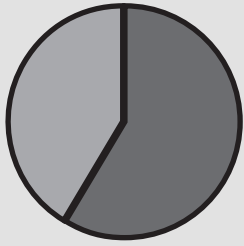
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Our view

TEC asks readers for Valentine's love

On today, the loveliest of all love days, we would like to extend a proverbial rose to you, our readers, and ask earnestly for you to be our Valentine.

We know we have had our problems in the past. Sometimes we don't communicate in the best ways, and we'd like for you to help us communicate better. But we're always striving to better serve you and make the community more accessible through the pages of our newspaper.

With all seriousness, as the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, we would like to commemorate this holiday by reminding you, our readership, our community and our fellow Pirates, that we're here for you.

Each and every day in our newsroom, we strive for excellence, not only for the betterment of ourselves, but for the

edification, unification and growth of our friends, classmates, professors and readers at-large. We tell your stories, we showcase your achievements, and yes in times, we criticize your decisions, but we do so in love for our community. We do so for all of us.

Today, the country turns its attention to love. Romantic partners, family members and friends across our country celebrate Valentine's Day in a simple way: by reminding each other that they care, and that they are here for each other, we hope to do the same. In a time when not only the credibility of journalists is nationally questioned, but the objective intentions behind their work are doubted, it's more important than ever to reiterate our dedication to all voices, all opinions and all members of our community. We love you.

Letters to the editor

The importance of students taking foundations courses throughout college career

Dear Editor:

The major point of contention regarding the Foundations Curriculum requirements for undergraduate degrees within Matthew Prenskey's "Liberal Arts Education Helps but Hurts Some" seems to concern cost versus what is gained from courses not listed within a student's discipline. From the authors' connotations, the articles boil down to their statements of "The basic idea of getting educated and landing a high paying job has become more treacherous than it needs to be," and "Education should be individualized to the student." Regarding Anna Parrish's "General Education Courses Put Extra Pressure on Students," the same argument holds. She says "Prerequisite courses take time and money away from an elective class within my major that would help enrich my studies and my skills, all which ECU is a big promoter of."

Both use the example of journalism majors and their requirements outside the majors. Prenskey says, "the newspaper they apply to for a job will not care how well they understand biology, they will care about how well that student understands grammar," but journalists cannot survive

without their critical eye. Publishers depend on them to get their facts straight, skills that come from research in their English and humanities requirements. Social science and foreign language requirements allow them to understand the foreign culture they are reporting on with another perspective and to understand the common human condition. Introductory science and mathematics requirements prompt them to ask questions and ensure proper experimental method has been established.

That is the primary reason for the Foundations Curriculum, to give every student a well-rounded background to ask questions. Living in our world has the unfortunate consequence of keeping answers hidden from us, but that is the beauty in life: having more questions than answers, because questions offer more growth than answers. Questions fuel ambition, the drive to explore our passion — the opportunity for every human to become a student of our world and contribute to the betterment of the human experience, because engineers have an introductory background in psychology and graphic designers have a grasp of the

scientific method. It makes questions easier to approach because everyone understands the surface of each field and where their individual talents are needed most.

College functions similarly, to explore what each field has to offer and gravitate towards those that pose the most interesting questions that the student feels obligated to answer, posing their own questions in response. Foundations courses are not for "taking advantage of students instead of giving them a chance to succeed." Freshman students cannot jump directly into their theses. Foundations courses still count towards their major, and gives them the necessary experience to tackle more advanced coursework. Besides, the foundations courses only use forty-two credits while more than double that is within the student's major, and using majors/minors, education is already specialized.

I sense that what the articles are really getting at is that "landing a high-paying job has become more treacherous than it needs to be" because the cost of additional classes adds to student debt, and that the writer should finish college as fast as they can to find a job to pay off their debt. In that case,

the quickest solution is to shave off the classes that are not summed up in one sentence on their diploma. However, if the writer thinks that college can be summed up in one sentence as their diploma says, then they are missing the point of higher education. The diploma carries a promise of the quality of education that its university gave the recipient—and the life experiences and knowledge of the world that the graduate has obtained on the journey.

Higher education is about the scholarly attempt to transcend the ordinary acceptance of our world, to create progress in order to understand us as a humanity and our world as a science. Likewise, science is unchanneled exploration, and humanity is the ambition of the human spirit. Science can get nowhere by itself, but with mankind's introspection and curiosity, progress is born. The wide array of interdisciplinary courses that everyone must take to graduate is to ask students to create individual progress in the hopes that progress as a world of interconnected individuals is fostered.

Garrett Yarbrough
Sophomore, English and history major

America hypocritical about immigration



Matthew Prenskey
TEC COLUMNIST

Don't Mind Matt

The United States of America is a mongrel. A being so crossbred and mixed that no true genetic identity exists. Every American child is the son or daughter of a migrant pushed to this

land with a dream.

Picture the average American neighborhood. Even if everyone who lives in that area is the same ethnicity, religion or socioeconomic status, their ancestry is probably so diverse they themselves are mongrels. Mixed with descendents from different corners of the globe, most Americans aren't actually American. Almost every citizen of this nation has roots from somewhere else.

This image paints a clear picture of America. The fact of the matter is the United States is a cocktail. A drink so diluted with different alcohols it is hard to distinguish one

from another.

Don't be mistaken, the fact that we are a collective body of immigrants united by the stars and stripes is a great reason to love America. Because of this nation's diverse nature, holidays from different cultures are recognized worldwide, humans who might otherwise never meet have the chance to fall in love and those who may face persecution in their homeland have the ability to be themselves.

However, because of fear, paranoia or whatever reason people have, as a nation built on migrant greatness we can't wall off or a ban a critical part of what makes America unique. To make America great again we should stand by this nation's cornerstone of welcoming everyone equally.

The fact that most Americans are the offspring of immigrants has become muted by the cacophony of opinions swirling through the air waves. No matter if a man or woman immigrated yesterday or 100 years ago, they share the same right to become an American.

In 2015, 90,789 individuals from European countries applied for permanent residents in the United States. That same year 405,854 individuals from Asian countries and 46,556 people from Central America also applied to become part of the "American Dream," according to the Department of Homeland Security 2015 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.

Every immigrant doesn't come to this country for the same reason. But, to make the conclusion that every immigrant looking to immigrate has devious intentions is an assumption too fake for even the craziest fantasies.

Beyond generalizing millions of migrants into the actions carried out by a microscopic minority, stopping American immigration based on race, gender, region of origin or religion is hypocritical. To be an American means a person not only follows, but believes in the Constitution of the United States of America.

For a nation built on unity and guided by

the constitutional premise that every citizen is equal, immigration is a cornerstone. If the air we breathe, the soil we stand on and the water we drink isn't American, it takes a great deal of audacity to claim that migrants don't have the right to immigrate to this nation.

To ban modern day immigrants from starting a new branch of their family tree in the United States is equivalent to halting the future rotation of the American way. It is illogical to stop what makes this nation great in order to "reestablish" American greatness.

To fear the unknown is to fear the future. What the light of tomorrow will bring is never for certain and the assurance of the future is never definite. The actions of cowards should be a caution to the world, but shouldn't stop this great land from continuing to be a beacon for equality and inclusion for all.

Matthew Prenskey is a sophomore majoring in political science and communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Valentine's Day fashion on a budget

Madison Lawson
TEC STAFF

Break out the sweetheart necklines, flirty skirts and pink velvet dresses because love is in the air. Whether you are spending the evening at an upscale restaurant or out drinking mimosas with your gal pals, there are ways to look fierce this Valentine's Day without emptying your wallet.

According to Business Insider, millennial women spend an average of \$400 a month on new clothes. Troubled with the thoughts of what to wear on a date, many women splurge on a new dress or top because they have "nothing else" in their wardrobes. To avoid this, East Carolina University students shared their tips and tricks on how to look date-ready at an affordable cost.

"It is such a great feeling knowing you can buy an outfit and look good without having to break the bank," said junior psychology major Haley Jamrog.

One budget friendly alternative to finding high quality dresses for a not-so-high price is to check online, said Jamrog. Although online shopping has its drawbacks, a new type of website has trended recently for it's reselling of gently used designer clothes. Almost like a yard sale online, websites like Poshmark and Mercari are convenient shopping apps where people can sell unwanted pieces for a discounted price. According to the Poshmark website, it resells famous brands such as Brandy Melville, Tiffany & Co, Lululemon and even Michael Kors for up to 70 percent off its original price.

"I have bought Kylie Jenner lip kits and name brand clothes off Mercari for super cheap," Jamrog said. "People think I spend so much money on things when really I am secretly spending next to nothing."

Another hidden gem women have been using to find inexpensive outfits is Pirate Gals. Pirate Gals is a closed Facebook group dedicated to ECU students who are looking to buy and sell used dresses and accessories for a low price.

"I created it in February 2016 to give girls an outlet to clean out their closets and make a little extra cash," said senior business management major Allison Gamble. "It has been really successful so far and it continues to grow constantly."

With about 4,000 members, Pirate Gals has been a hit with many sorority members since they are required to attend cocktail parties and formal events frequently.

"For my Valentine's Day sorority party this evening, I am



Haley Jamrog sorts through an outdoor sales rack at Catalog Connection.

wearing a dark red dress from Pirate Gals," said freshman health and fitness major Emma Cunningham. "It's so helpful and keeps me from spending a ton of money."

According to Cunningham, local stores like Catalog Connection have also had great sales leading up to Valentine's Day.

"We have prepared by ordering and putting on display many red, pink and black outfits," said Catalog Connection Manager Meredith Rowe. "As far as accessories, we have our tassel earrings on display, chokers for a cheap price and ordered new wedges and heels."

Rowe, an ECU alumni, added, "We have seen a variety of people in here: many sorority girls looking for cocktail dresses as well as girls just coming in looking for a more casual shirt for a date night."

If buying anything still isn't in your budget, sophomore sports studies major Ceejay Parker recommends borrowing from a friend.

"Hit up your roommate or a friend who has great taste and raid their wardrobe," said Parker. "It's free and you still get to feel like Beyoncé for a night."

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

Downtown's destinations for special day

Alaina Corsini
TEC STAFF

Love is in the air in Greenville as various restaurants prepare for Valentine's Day festivities. Cocktails and wine will be plentiful, along with a variety of different chef specials, from lobster and salmon to filet mignon.

Crave Restaurant and Bar will be hosting Valentine's Dinner for two featuring a three-course dinner and a bottle of wine included with the purchase of the dinner.

"This will be the second couples dinner," said Michael Anderson, one of the four local owners of Crave Restaurant and Bar. "Last year it was a sellout."

Anderson said the appetizer of the night will be a tapas platter to share. The main course will follow by the couple's choice of filet mignon, lamb chops or salmon.

"Dessert will be a choice of peanut butter cup cheesecake or strawberry shortcake cheesecake [and] both will be served with chocolate covered strawberries," said Anderson.

Chocolate and wine are staple items on the various menus available to couples for their Valentine's night out. At Cafe Duo, located on Red Banks Road, dessert will include pot de creme, which is similar to a rich chocolate mousse.

"The dessert is a special chocolate that we do," said Patrick O'Bryan, manager at Cafe Duo. "It's really good."

The first course at Cafe Duo is set to provide couples the option to choose from lobster bisque or a bistro salad, a specialty to the restaurant.

"For the second course, they'll choose between a filet mignon, catch of the day, a linguine granchio, which is a crab meat pasta, or pan roasted duck breast," said O'Bryan.

Cafe Duo regularly hosts similar events for different holidays throughout the year, including a special brunch menu for Easter and Mother's Day, according to O'Brien. Cafe Duo is expecting a large turnout for Valentine's dinner and reservations are highly recommended.

Other restaurants throughout Greenville and the surrounding areas will also host Valentine's dinners and events. Downtown, Winslow's Deli will offer a Valentine's Day special, including two chicken or shrimp pasta dinners and the couple's choice of champagne or wine. At Fire American Tavern, the purchase of tickets will include a four-course dinner and a bottle of wine.

Valentine's night at Famiglia Italian Restaurant is set to include various bruschettas and pasta dishes. According to manager Sarah Edwards, the dinner for two offers couples the choice of salmon & potato gnocchi, prime ribeye, boneless pork chops or spaghetti squash lasagna.

Having opened recently, in the past few years, this will be the first Valentine's Day Dinner hosted by Famiglia.

"Last year on Valentine's Day we offered a special Valentine's Menu and the full menu as well," said Edwards. "This year we are only offering the special menu to dine in guests and are having Twisted Knot playing live. So this year will have a more romantic atmosphere."

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

MOVIE REVIEW

'50 Shades' of bad movie effects



Arvanna Smart
TEC STAFF

"Fifty Shades Darker" does nothing more than continue the disappointment created from the original film "Fifty Shades of Grey." Arguably better than the first film, "Fifty Shades Darker" offers

something a little more than its prequel, with humor added to the film.

For starters, the effects of the film were not realistic. How is it possible for a girl to have walked in the rain for three hours but seem completely dry? Also, the lack of chemistry between the leads has become even more apparent throughout the second film, coming to a point where it's actually funny. The two seem to not want to touch each other, only barely tolerating one another during the film. Most of the time they look confused, bewildered and uncomfortable whenever they share screen time together.

The film centers around the idea of Christian Grey, played by Jamie Dornan, giving in to the needs of Anastasia Steele, played by Dakota Johnson. It's the switching of roles from Mr. Grey that drags the audience in as he has become the submissive to Anastasia. He is willing to give up his alternative lifestyle and try



Actors Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson sit on the floor in the racy movie "Fifty Shades Darker."

to have a "vanilla" relationship just to be with her. This doesn't come with ease for the most loved couple and the directors don't do nearly as good of a job portraying the difficulty of this lifestyle for Grey as the book does.

The film almost makes this look as though Grey has lived the "vanilla" lifestyle before, not showing the magnitude of discomfort, annoyance and a little anger that Anastasia feels when Grey messes up by doing controlling things like buying the publishing company she becomes employed at.

Although there is already not much positive to say about this film, the hype, anticipation and book only make the film more of a disappointment. Better than "Fifty Shades of Grey," "Fifty Shades Darker" is a more entertaining sequel but still not a great movie.

Dramatic moments begin and then

suddenly end anti-climatically. Jose, Ana's friend who happens to be in love with her, builds a show around a half dozen photographs of Ana without her permission and it's never discussed again. An obsessed ex stalks Ana, a gun is pulled and it's never discussed again.

Basically two hours is filmed with dramatic scenes that barely have any development to them.

After this opening weekend, box-office sales are bound to go down as word of the disappointment gets around. Let's just hope the final film turns it around for this series.

RATING:



2 out of 5

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

Students auctioned as dates

Stevie Dupree-Parker
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The room was crowded, full of willing buyers ready to pay the price for their potential date. Well dressed women of F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe and men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity stood watch, waiting for their turn on center stage.

The line brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity had severely contrasting motives behind taking part in their Valentine's Date Auction fundraiser last Wednesday.

"I just got volunteered, like, without my permission," senior criminal justice major Xavier Smith said.

Cam Hodge, a senior health fitness specialist major, was given two options for the auction. "It was either perform or get auctioned," he said.

Smith and Hodge were eager to take on any task their fraternity threw at them. Hodge had been to numerous auctions before, but this was his first time acting as a participant.

"It's all about the cause," Hodge said. "If I was doing it for my own money, (I would say) no, but when it is bigger than me, yes."

Keeping the purpose of the auction in sight, he saw no reason to fret about the process he was delving into. Part of the money raised at

the Valentine's Date Auction will be donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

In light of having to go out with a complete stranger, both men are open to building new experiences with their upcoming date.

"It's cool, it is all for a good cause," said Hodge. "When I do stuff, it is not always about what is Cam doing to get out of it? Or how does this help Cam? It is benefitting the chapter and a bigger cause than the chapter."

Hodge had no initial expectations or concerns going into the auction.

"F.A.M.E and us have always worked pretty good together. They always include us in performances and stuff like that so we have a pretty good relationship," said Hodge.

The bachelors of Kappa Alpha Psi and bachelorettes of F.A.M.E. will be going on their dates through Valentine's Day.

"We did not have a set goal. It's all about feeling. If the audience is feeling you at the time, then you can go for a higher price," said Hodge.

Hodge was the last to be auctioned off and the crowd went wild as the auctioneer continued to raise his price, eventually making him the highest bid of the night.

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

the Big VAPE THEORY

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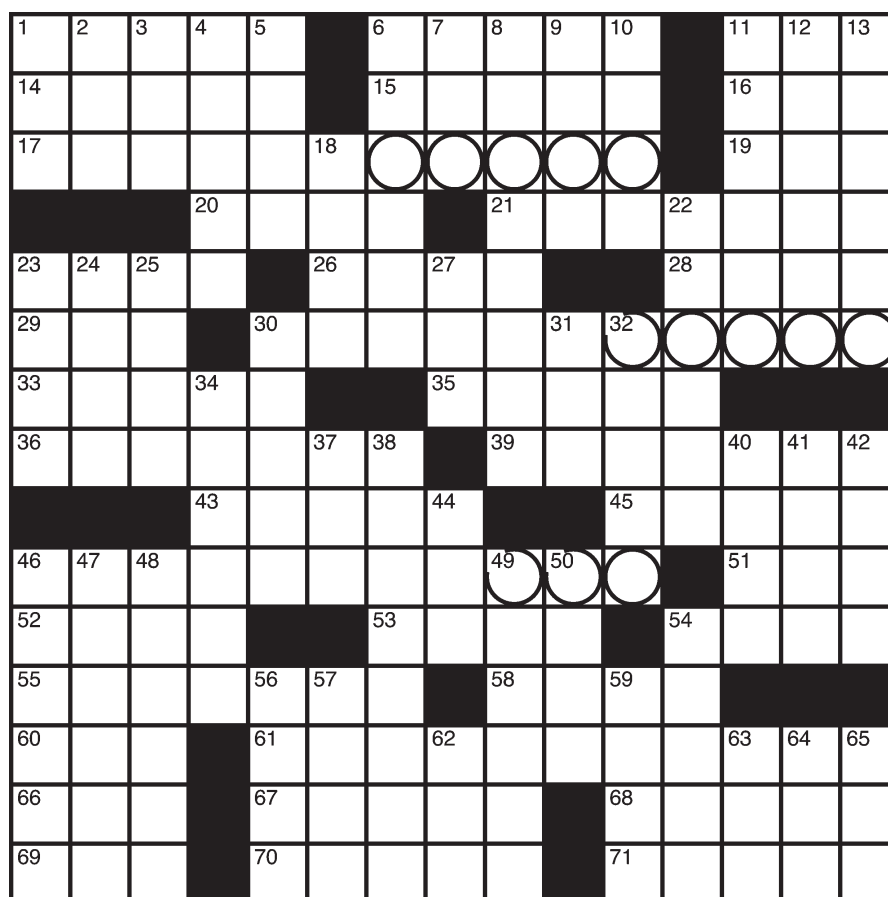
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PUZZLES

- ACROSS**
- Bindle-toting migrants
 - "Oliver!" no-goodnik
 - Bygone intl. carrier
 - Face in the crowd, in film
 - With no help
 - A, in Aachen
 - Crude early version of a work of art
 - Bottom-row PC key
 - Natural salve additive
 - Slightly
 - Financial claim
 - Coin-in-a-fountain thought
 - Pakistani language
 - "The Lord of the Rings" beast
 - Computer programming glitch
 - What marathoners load up on
 - WWII conference site
 - Like swimming competitions
 - Getting by
 - Rants and raves
 - Bold
 - New York City zoo locale
 - Slithery fish
 - Et ___: and others
 - Harp constellation
 - Daly of "Cagney & Lacey"
 - Sun protection for kissers?
 - Former Russian ruler
 - "___ no use!"
 - Lakeside launching aid ... and, literally, each set of circled letters
 - Pot pie veggie
 - When Macbeth kills Duncan
 - French-speaking Caribbean country
 - FDR successor
 - 2000s TV series set in California
 - Snooze



DOWN

- Seagoing pronoun
- Good Grips kitchenware brand
- A/C capacity meas.
- Church instrument
- Satirist Mort
- Secret agent's passport, say
- Some craft beer
- Advanced in one's career
- At no addl. cost
- Grape soda brand
- Italian playhouse
- "I'm on it, boss"
- Pre-poker deal demand
- Planted, as seed
- New Orleans university
- "Livin' La Vida ___": Ricky Martin hit
- Baghdad's land
- Beige shade
- Crafty
- To be, in Barcelona
- ___-mo replay
- Perform miserably
- Bill for drinks

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- "Hometown Proud" supermarket chain
- Roomie in prison
- Earl ___ tea
- Pizza cooker
- Actor Chandler of "Bloodline"
- CIA operative
- Muslim bigwig
- Upper crust groups
- Attacks, puppy-style
- Super cold phone
- ___ by jury
- Blind as ___
- Ness, for one
- Massage reactions
- Padre's brother
- Whopper
- Summer, in 68-Across
- Fabric mishap

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

2/14/17

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

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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COMIC



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TUNE IN EVERY DAY

91.3 FM WZMB

ECU takes 30 top 10s

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

In its last meet before the indoor American Athletic Conference Championships, the East Carolina track and field team took over at Liberty University, notching several top-10 finishes and breaking a few records along the way.

"Overall it was a pretty good weekend," head coach Curt Kraft said. "Going into the conference championships in two weeks we still have a lot of work to do."

At the Liberty Invitational the Pirates took on teams from the east coast including James Madison, Virginia, Wake Forest, Charleston Southern, Elon and UNC Charlotte.

Together the men's and women's sides combined for 37 top-10 finishes across the different disciplines. The women accounted for 23, while the men brought in 14.

On the men's side there were three first-place finishes, including senior Pol Solanellas who earned first in the 1,000-meter run, and logged the second fastest time in ECU history at 2:26.66. Sophomore Nick Ciaccia continued to add to his victories, adding a 5,000-meter first place finish at 14:38.23. The time now sits as the fastest time in ECU history, and Ciaccia won the field by more than 23 seconds.

"I thought that the distance crew by far had the best weekend of any part



Sophomore Nick Ciaccia runs in a meet.

of our team and I couldn't be any more proud of them," Kraft said. "(Assistant) coach (Josey) Weaver is doing a great job with the group he coaches."

Sophomore Ryan Davis took first place in the weight throw in which he threw 18.36 meters. Davis was followed by senior teammate Adam Manns who threw the weight a distance of 17.77 meters.

The men's throwers added to their successful performances by having three men place in the top 10 in the shot put. On the women's side thrower Mogogany Baker took second in the weight throw

with a distance of 19.01 meters and fourth in the shot put with 13.85 meters.

"We are expecting a lot out of her. She has hit 20 meters before," Kraft said. "She's a junior. Those upperclassmen, you look for them to lead."

Along with Baker, there were multiple women who stood out in the other disciplines. Senior Courtney Warner placed third in the 60-meter and 200-meter races. In the 60-meter, Warner ran 7.59 seconds and in the 200-meter she ran 24.50 seconds.

Sophomore Grace Sullivan placed fifth in the 3,000-meter race running a time of 10:05.00, good enough for eighth on the top 10 list for the Pirates.

The Pirates will continue working for the next two weeks to prepare themselves for the conference championships. Kraft plans to have several team meetings over these two weeks to help the team keep their motivation and drive on goal.

"The time off is good overall for the team," Kraft said. "It gives them a chance to get some good training sessions in and to get healthy these two things are most important for the team right now."

The AAC Championships will take place Feb. 24-25 in Birmingham, Alabama at the Birmingham CrossPlex.

To contact this writer, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Men's tennis suffers loss, tops App St.

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina men's tennis team was handed its first loss of the season over the weekend by the Richmond Spiders in the Pirates first of two homestand matches.

In both days of match-ups the Pirates competed in singles and doubles matches. In the doubles matches, the Pirates got off to a good start early when senior Fredric Lehfeldt and sophomore Will Bissett dominated their matchup to sweep their competition 6-0. However, that was the easiest win for the Pirates as all other matches were closely contested.

In the first singles match, junior Freddie McGeehan uncharacteristically had to battle throughout each of his sets, and did not prevail in any of them (6-4, 6-3).

Sophomore Vlad Anghel pulled out victories (7-5, 7-6 (2-0)) to put ECU back on top and make up for McGeehan's dropped sets.

Sophomore Ronny Georgi put the Pirates in position to win the entire match after winning his sets (7-5, 7-6) to put ECU up 3-1, and set up junior Kasey Countee to grab the fourth and clinching set win. The win over Appalachian State gave ECU its seventh of the season.

"We had a good support today," Georgi said. "The guys were just screaming all over the court supporting me. The coach helped me make sure I was ready for every point. I'm glad that I made it in two sets instead of three."

Countee successfully picked up the fourth win for the Pirates, 6-4, 6-3, allowing the day's matches to end without completing the final two as ECU had already won the match.

"I had to stay focused," Countee said. "I felt that if I could get a break and serve well, I could win and that's what happened."

On Friday, the tennis team took on the Spiders which ended in a tough first loss of the season. The Pirates struggled throughout the doubles matches and didn't gain any ground with McGeehan, Countee, Georgi and Bissett suffering losses.

ECU looked to spring to life, making up for its early losses by picking up three straight wins in single match play to lead the overall day, 3-2.

Anghel had more of the momentum in his favor during his singles match (6-1, 1-6, 6-1) to give the Pirates a chance of coming all the way back to win the day. Georgi backed up his teammate (7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-3) to even the singles match score at two leaving it up to the final matches to decide if the team would remain undefeated.

Lehfeldt made the team win look probable as he picked up a decisive third team win (6-3, 3-6, 6-2) to put Countee or Will Bissett in position to close out the day.

"I played my opponent five times during my college career and this is the fifth time I won," Lehfeldt said. "I kinda knew how to play that guy. The sets were short, the points were short in the whole match."

Countee couldn't finish the deal as he dropped his match 6-2, 6-4 to move the reigns onto Bissett. Bissett represented the Pirates in the final match of the day with the score all knotted up at three.

In the first set, he struggled to get into the set, as he lost 6-2. Knowing if he lost the second set the Pirates would be given their first loss of the year, he changed his approach, but couldn't pick up the set win. Bissett lost the second set 6-3 to give the Spiders the 4-3 road win.

"We had a tough matchup on Friday," head coach Shawn Heinchon said. "We competed greatly, we just did not come out on top this time."

With the win Sunday, the Pirates improved to 7-1 overall with their eyes on their next weekend games coming against Temple Friday and Delaware Saturday.

To contact this writer, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Temple wrecks Pirates

Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

Robert Romero
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina women's basketball team failed to snap its losing streak against the same team that started it, losing to the Temple Owls, 76-43 in Minges Coliseum Saturday night during the breast cancer awareness game.

"Thank you to all of those guys for bringing our community out, bringing awareness to such an important cause," head coach Heather Macy said. "As we fight to find a cure for cancer, thanks to everybody who was a part of that in spirit."

Even though every Pirate got on the scoreboard, Saturday was the second fewest points the team scored all season. Only Kristen Gaffney reached double-figures (11 points) and it was a tough shooting night overall. Out of the 61 shots the team put up, only 16 went through the net for a total of 26 percent.

"When everybody scores and it's just like three points, it's not going to equal a whole bunch of points," Macy said. "They're a very good defensive team, really aggressive, and I didn't think that we responded well with the pressure."

Temple (19-5, 9-2 American Athletic Conference) had a much more successful night from the field. Both teams attempted the same number of shots, but the Owls made 30 of their shots, shooting at almost 50 percent. Player-of-the-Year candidate Feyonda Fitzgerald scored a game-high 21 points, while adding six rebounds and four assists.

The difference in the game



ECU freshman guard Justice Gee goes up for one of the season-high 61 shots against AAC foe Temple.

wasn't just ECU's 18 turnovers, which seems to be a constant theme, but how many points it turned into for Temple. Temple's 35 points off turnovers was almost enough to beat the Pirates alone, and certainly changed the game.

"[We have to] value the ball. You can't shoot it when you turn the ball over," Macy said.

ECU (10-15, 1-11 AAC) started quickly, grabbing a 4-2 lead in the opening minutes but squandered it due to its poor shooting.

Owl guard Donnaizha Fountain took over in the first quarter, scoring eight of her 19 points in the quarter. Temple closed the quarter on a 17-3 run and found itself with a comfortable 23-9 lead.

The second quarter was virtually identical to the first. The Owls hit 3-pointers, forced turnovers and continued to cushion their lead. The

brightest spot for the Pirates in the first half was the play of Justice Gee. Only a freshman, Gee's minutes continue to grow because of the immediate energy she brings to the game with her quickness and defense.

"Justice keeps getting better," Macy said. "It's what they're doing in practice that's earning equity with me. I love how she competes."

Coming out of halftime, ECU played much more aggressive defense and held Temple to just 11 points in the third quarter.

Despite a 6-0 run, the Pirates failed to take advantage of their stellar defense, scoring just two more points than the Owls.

ECU made two shots from the field all quarter but cashed in from the free throw line, where nine of the 13 points in the quarter came from.

ECU couldn't carry its defense over to the final quar-

ter and allowed Temple to run away with the quarter, and ultimately the game.

A last second layup by Gee saved the Pirates from scoring the least amount of points all season.

With only four games remaining on the schedule the Pirates are will not finish the season with a winning record, however, only three wins separate ECU from the eighth seed in the American Conference.

Up next for the Pirates is a trip to take on Memphis Wednesday. ECU has yet to win a conference road game but will have three more cracks at it.

The following Wednesday will be the final game in Minges Coliseum this season, when Cincinnati visits Greenville for ECU's Senior Night.

To contact this writer, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

BASEBALL

continued from A1

experiences traveling as a part of Taylor's baseball team that helped him choose baseball as the sport to focus on.

Now entering his second year at ECU, Williams-Sutton looks to improve on his breakout freshman year. He earned First Team All-AAC honors after hitting .360 to lead the league. Despite having offseason surgery to repair a torn labrum in his shoulder, which

occurred in the super regionals against Texas Tech, Williams-Sutton said he worked hard to improve his swing and arm strength.

With all the work he continues to put in to improve as a baseball player, Williams-Sutton hopes to achieve his two main goals: to win the National Championship and make it in professional baseball.

"One day I want to get drafted and be able to help my family out," he said.

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