



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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SGA 2017 ELECTION LOOMS

Part 1 of a 2 part series covering the candidates for the upcoming 2017 SGA elections

TICKET 1

Ticket 1 to focus on bridging student organizations, SGA

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

With a focus on the three principles of the Student Government Association: Service, Governance and Advocacy, Ticket 1's Cooper Kinsey and Michelle Kellett are two candidates running for student body president and vice president.

"It's our time to step up and make a difference and show what we've learned over the past three years and strive to move our student body forward and help all the students and do everything we can," said Kellett.

A junior communication major with a concentration in journalism, Kinsey is running for student body president. Kinsey has been involved with SGA since his freshman year at



Juniors Cooper Kinsey and Michelle Kellett are on Ticket 1 of ECU's SGA elections.

ECU. A brother of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, Kinsey currently acts as the vice president of InterFraternity Council. He also works as an intramural official, where he referees flag football, basketball and volleyball.

Running for student body vice president, Kellett is a junior double-major in communication, with a concentration in public relations, and political science. Kellett currently serves as SGA's director of First-Year Programs. She has also

been involved with SGA since her freshman year. Kellett is a sister of the Phi Mu sorority and worked as an orientation assistant and pirate navigator.

Both Kinsey and Kellett said they spend a lot of time volunteering with their respective Greek groups which is something they wanted to incorporate into their platform.

"Service is a really big part (of the platform), and we think SGA should be doing a lot more to serve the students," said Kellett. "We want to serve Greenville and ECU in as many ways as we can."

Kinsey and Kellett agree that their friendship is a huge component of what sets their team apart from other candidates. "That's one of the best

> TICKET 1 page A2



Cooper Kinsey



Michelle Kellett

TICKET 2

Ticket 2 aims to increase student safety with partnerships

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

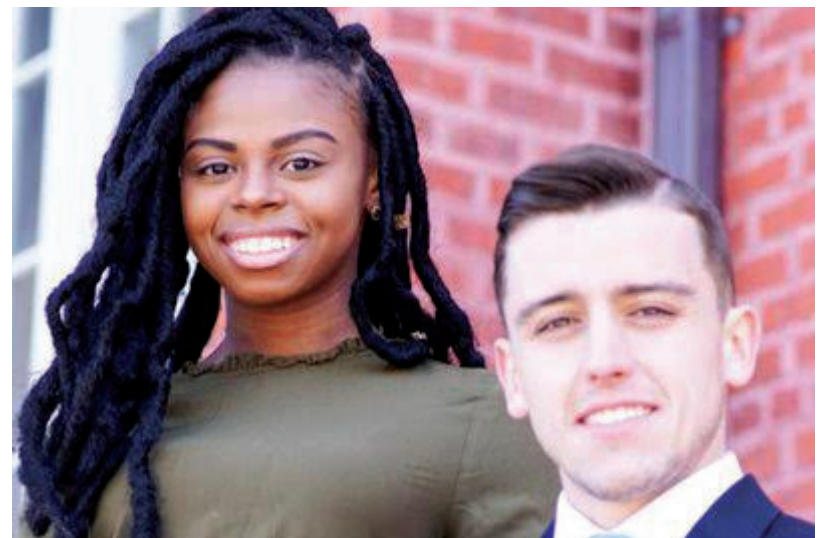
Giovanni Triana and Jasmine Hardy are running for student body president and vice president on Ticket 2. The students said they want to serve students at East Carolina University by solving problems felt throughout campus.

Currently a junior, Triana is running for student body president. He currently serves the Student Government Association as the director of community outreach and has organized several service-based projects at ECU. He is also a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. Triana said he has since devoted all his efforts into the campaign and is no longer a member of any student organizations except SGA.

"ECU's motto, service: to serve, is something that I live out on a daily basis," said Triana. "That's something that I've really learned, to enhance my leadership through service."

Triana's running mate for student body vice president is Hardy. She is a junior double majoring in communication with a public relations concentration and African and African-American Studies. Hardy in addition to SGA, is also part of other groups including Black Student Union, YACHT Club, FAME Modeling Troupe, RESIST Club and the National Council of Negro Women.

Ticket 2's platform put an emphasis on student safety. If elected, Triana and Hardy said they plan to increase student safety and partner with Uber to provide flexible student jobs and stimulate the



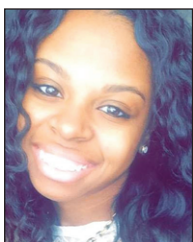
Giovanni Triana and Jasmine Hardy are Ticket 2 in SGA's 2017 presidential elections.

Greenville economy. Triana said this partnership can

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Giovanni Triana



Jasmine Hardy

ECU baseball set for Rebels in three-game set at Oxford

Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

After an offseason filled with high expectations, the East Carolina baseball team will step back on the field for an opening road series against the highly-touted Ole Miss Rebels starting Friday in Oxford, Mississippi.

The Rebels, who have equally high pre-season expectations, are fresh off a 43-win season. Ole Miss also hauled in the nation's No. 1 recruiting class and despite losing six players to the MLB draft, it still returns five everyday starters. Depth should be no problem either as the recruiting class produced a combined 28 freshmen and sophomores.

Connections between the two schools also run deep in this particular matchup. Before taking over the reins in Greenville, head coach Cliff Godwin was an assistant under Ole Miss coach Mike Bianco.

"Working for a great coach like Mike Bianco, who's been around the



Sophomore Cam Colmore throws a pitch. ECU will face Ole Miss three times this week.

game for a long time, I've tried to take a few things from him," Godwin said. "And the way they run their program has helped us a lot here."

This weekend the Pirates are going to have to face preseason All-American Colby Bortles. The senior

third baseman played in every game last year for the Rebels and slashed .269/.379/.854 with eight homers and 50 RBI. Bortles' 21 doubles was good enough for second in the Southeastern Conference.

> BASEBALL page A6

Flu epidemic invades campus

Alanna Joyner
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

As flu season peaks, so does the number of students contracting the flu and in particular, the month of February has already led to a significant influx in flu cases on East Carolina University's campus.

According to MedlinePlus, an online information service produced by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, close living quarters, shared restrooms and a lot of social activities make a college student more likely to catch the flu.

The ease of transporting the virus is simple and can happen on

a daily basis, according to Ellen Goldberg, associate director for Clinical Operations at ECU Student Health Services.

Goldberg said the flu spreads through droplets from coughing or sneezing. These droplets can travel up to six feet to whomever and whatever is in the vicinity.

These particles can be transported into your mouth, nose or inhaled into the lungs and settle into the mucus membranes in which then they start to replicate. A person can also contract the flu by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and

> EPIDEMIC page A2

ONLINE

» ECU men's hoops drops AAC foe Temple at Minges

» ECU grad gives kidney to former roommate

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

ECU to host
Ndaba Mandela

East Carolina University will host a N.C. Civility Summit with Ndaba Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela, as a keynote speaker. The event will be held Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. in the Mendenhall Student Center.

Admission fees for the N.C. Civility Summit is free for students, \$5 for staff and \$10 for the general public. Tickets are on sale at www.ecu.edu/ecuarts.

SRC hosts 'Lift Like a Girl' strength clinics

The Student Recreation Center is hosting a TRX (Total Resistance Exercise) session for ECU women today from 4-5 p.m. in Room 239. This session is a part of the "Lift Like A Girl" series designed for women who are new to resistance training.

Demonstrating proper techniques and various TRX exercises will be provided throughout the session. Sessions are free for members but pre-registration is required. Those interested can contact Suzanne McDonald for more information.

CORRECTIONS &
CLARIFICATIONS

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

ECU Police looks ahead in 2017

Cayla Rodney
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Police Department has made the implementation of body cameras for all officers a priority by the Fall 2017 semester and hopes to implement more changes with the student body in mind.

"In 2015 and 2016 we saw a huge shift in culture for law enforcement," said Chris Sutton, administrative lieutenant for ECU Police. "With cameras in place we can evaluate the officer's actions in certain instances and be able to review that for career development or evaluation by superiors."

The department already uses car cameras and hopes to bring that same level of technology with body cameras. This process began last year, as the department analyzed different cameras.

"Technology changes rapidly so we want to make sure we are getting the best," said Sutton.

Sutton said ECU Police saw this as an opportunity for "better accountability and gives law enforcement the ability to refute claims of inappropriate actions."

Although the police are hoping to gain trust from the public, they will still have to follow the new public information law standards, put into place by former Gov. Pat McCrory.

"Some of the public information law changed for when and what can be released in terms of video," said Sutton. "This is something the public struggles with sometimes, but we have to work with the (District Attorney) and are limited to when and how we can release videos to maintain the integrity of the case."

This is just one of the many changes coming in 2017. The department continues to strive to fulfill its mission statement "to partner with students, faculty, staff, as well as, visitors to provide and maintain a safe learning environment while enhancing the quality of life at East Carolina University and the surrounding community."

According to the ECU Police website, its team is made up of 58 full-time sworn police officer positions



MIMI PAGES | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

An ECU Police car sits in the lot on 10th Street. The force plans to make improvements during this year.

and up to 10 sworn reserve officer positions that are certified by the State of North Carolina, 16 non-sworn departmental personnel and up to 30 part-time student patrol officers.

Currently, the department is undergoing staff changes including new officers and is seeking a new Chief of Police. The new officers will come onto staff within the next couple months and the chief position should be filled by Fall 2017.

ECU Police aids an average of 40,000 students, faculty, staff and visitors at all hours, any day of the year. Sutton said being a part of the student community is an important part of the job.

"We work with different student groups on campus such as SGA and the Black Student Union," said Sutton. "We should be announcing soon an event coming in April to bring unity. It will involve student groups and should be well received by the public."

By working with on-campus forces, ECU Police said it hopes to expand safety and gain the trust of students.

Another aspect of campus safety and outreach has been the police's involvement with drug education. "We have done programs with Campus Living

for several years and we have recently been more forceful when dealing with drug related problems," said Sutton. "What we do is not done with the intent of discipline, but with the intent of removing drugs from campus and out of the hands of students who have bright futures ahead of them."

The department also has been publicizing and implementing the LiveSafe application.

"Students, faculty and staff should get the LiveSafe app that the university has purchased for (the) campus community," said Sutton. "Currently 10 percent of the total campus has downloaded the app and we want to increase that."

With all of these changes for the ECU Police, Sutton said the department will continue to focus on present student safety and safety in the future.

"In six short months, the fall semester will be approaching in mid-August (and) we have a concert at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the Carolina Kick Off featuring Blake Shelton, which could have as many for 50-60,000 people," said Sutton.

The department is preparing for the huge crowds and the repercussions that can present themselves.

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

TICKET 1
continued from A1

parts about us running together, we both make up for each other where the other is lagging. We stay on top of each other and I think that is causes us to have a really good team, we challenge each other," said Kellett.

Kinsey and Kellett said they see SGA as a huge asset for ECU as they view the group as a support system for other student organizations. While both Kinsey and Kellett said they take pride in their personal connections to Greek life, their roles as members of SGA and representatives of the student body carries a lot of weight.

"It's bringing together the whole ECU community. I want to use my position in Greek life to also help SGA and to bridge the gap," said Kinsey. "We're just trying to bring a positive light to both SGA and Greek life."

The team said its platform is formed around the goal of connecting everyday students to their representatives in SGA.

The pair said it would like to create an online portal where students can communicate their thoughts or concerns with SGA representatives who can then take this information and create initiatives that will directly benefit students at ECU.

Ticket 1 also plans to provide services to "better serve all students" including more recycling options, healthier Pirate Meal options and partner with businesses in the area to provide student

discount cards, according to the pair.

Additionally, Kinsey and Kellett said they want to act as advocates for mental health and create a link between ECU and the City of Greenville to discuss issues that may affect ECU students such as the issue of sexual assault on campus.

"We want to create an advocacy for mental health," said Kellett, who observed a similar program at NC State. "One of the things that we'd like to do is work with the Counseling Center to create some sort of support group so that students know they have someone they can go to. Getting these students talking to other students who are in the same boat helps move the issues forward and brings them to our attention so people band together and then they can also start working on ways to prevent."

The duo said it also wants to embrace the diversity on ECU's campus by starting an annual summit where student leaders and student organizations can come together in an effort to understand each other.

Kinsey said once he graduates he hopes to someday work as a sports broadcaster, while Kellett said she would one day like to work as a public relations specialist for the government.

"We want to strengthen SGA's relations with all organizations, creating a system where SGA representatives are assigned to every organization to serve as a liaison between (students) and SGA," according to the team's website, which can be found at mkellett327.wixsite.com/ecuticket.

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TICKET 2
continued from A1

make students safer by reducing the risk for drunk driving and sexual assault as well as alleviate the parking and ticketing issue on campus at ECU taking an example from a similar program at University of Southern California.

Another component of the team's plan to increase campus safety is to promote the Sexual Assault Reporter Program within fraternities and sororities. According to Triana, people will undergo bystander intervention training and will act as liaisons between SGA and student organizations to watch for inappropriate behavior and create a sense of accountability within the community.

Triana's platform also calls for the installation of additional Blue Lights on various places on campus, as well as areas in The Grid. Triana said he would also like to include an active shooter training portion in every HLTH 1000 class, so as to be ready if any incident occurs.

Triana said his team plans to embrace and promote diversity by enhancing the school's ability to use their First Amendment right to free speech. If elected, he said his administration plans to provide an expression hall, similar to an area of expression at other universities, to provide students the space to speak their mind. According to Triana, these areas will not be policed by administrative rules, but rather "social somethings" to ensure everyone has the right to free speech and tolerance can be learned.

"Part of our platform is tolerance of free speech. When it come to toleration and diversity on campus, we really believe in diversity of thought," said Triana. "We're going to listen to (students). We strongly believe that if we were chosen by the

student body to lead them, we're going to do everything in our power to make sure they are treated equally and fairly."

The team's platform also includes plans to address issues such as mental health, book prices at the Dowdy Student Store, adjustments to course descriptions for online registering, more laundry machines for residence halls and discount cards working in partnership with Greenville businesses.

"We don't want to run just to get elected, we want to run because we want to make SGA as efficient as possible," said Triana. "We're not going to get in office and just skate on by, put it on our resume and go home."

In line with Ticket 2's motto, "Parrots Listen to Pirates," Triana and Hardy hope to enhance SGA's involvement with student organizations by creating the Organizational Affairs Committee, a group of students who will act as liaisons between SGA and other student groups. Additionally, these candidates said they hope to work with the Student Affairs department to enhance and promote the Cupola Conversations to make sure students have the opportunity to speak and be heard.

"All we want to do is listen, and that's why our tagline is 'Parrots Listen to Pirates,'" said Triana. "Because we're the parrots and (students) are the Pirates, and we're going to pledge to listen."

As a student, Triana is working towards a political science degree with a minor in mathematics and hopes to one day become an economic advisor in the White House or write policy.

Hardy said in the future she would like to work with a public relations firm and someday start one of her own.

Additional information on Ticket 2 and its platform can be found on its website, TrianaHardy.com.

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EPIDEMIC
continued from A1

then touching their own face, mouth or nose, according to Goldberg.

Once an individual has contracted the virus, The Center of Disease Control and Prevention reports that the development of symptoms starts one to four days after the virus enters the body.

The symptoms which can last a week or more and may range from a sudden onset of chills, a fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough, sore throat, body aches, fatigue and/or nausea, Goldberg said.

To avoid this, students should stay away from sick individuals according to Goldberg. She added it is also important "to wash your hands with soap and water as often as possible". If soap and water are unavailable, Goldberg said hand sanitizer is a backup especially when moving from class to class but should not be used in lieu of the traditional soap and water.

Goldberg said another important defense is getting a flu shot. The ECU Student Health Services offers flu vaccinations for students, especially during a critical flu peak such as the last three weeks.

"Most of the students (who) reported contracting the flu have been those who have not received the shot so it is encouraged," Goldberg said.

She added eating habits, amount of sleep and your immune system are also vital partners in preventing the flu. Maintaining a healthy diet, getting at least six hours of

sleep and exercising at least 30 minutes a day can improve your immune system's ability to protect yourself against the virus, said Goldberg.

She said for home treatment, over the counter medicines can help treat the symptoms such as cough. Ibuprofen or tylenol can help with muscle aches, fever, sore throat while rest as well as drinking a lot of fluids can help too.

Students who are unsure of symptoms can call and report ailments to the Student Health Services. Nurses at SHS can provide help and tips on the phone, instead of coming into the office.

"If you are unable to, please get a mask when you come into the health services if you are sick," said Goldberg.

If symptoms worsen, Goldberg said students should contact a medical provider if they experience shortness of breath, neck stiffness, are unable to hold down fluids or if they have an underlying ailment such as asthma.

If students would like to know more, Goldberg said Student Health provides information on its main page pertaining to prevention, treatment and additional information about other health related resources.

The SHS also has a flu self-reporting form available through ECU's Pirate Port, which allows students with one click to notify professors that they have flu symptoms. But Goldberg said students should be advised that this is not an excuse but allows students to email professors about their illness. Health Services said they encourage students to talk to professors afterwards to work out assignment or attendance issues.

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



ANSWER

Do you have a valentine?

YES 31.3%
NO 68.7%

QUESTION

Did you get the flu shot?

Vote online at
www.TheEastCarolinian.com

Our view

S.H.O.E.S. event promotes well-being

Last Thursday, S.H.O.E.S., which stands for Students Honoring Others' Everyday Struggles, held its annual event to highlight mental health issues among college students.

Nearly 200 shoes donated by ECU students were scattered around campus. Each pair was attached with different stories from students experiencing anxiety, depression or other mental health issues.

We at the East Carolinian believe reading relatable stories by fellow ECU students helps make someone who may be struggling with these issues feel supported. We live in a very intense society in the college world, with constant social and academic pressure. Sometimes, it is hard to admit how hard it really is, and students don't realize they aren't alone in feeling overwhelmed.

In correlation with the event, S.H.O.E.S. also spread

inspiring sticky notes around campus, like on the buses, in the dorms, and in most campus buildings. This, too, was encouraging to see. We hope those who saw these messages understood the connection between the two initiatives taken by S.H.O.E.S. In the future, we hope more students take a moment to recognize what is being relayed through this program.

We believe the shoes on campus made a big impact, and S.H.O.E.S. succeeded in raising more awareness of student mental health. We as a college community need to be more vocal about these underlying issues that surround our everyday lives, and ECU needs more honest, sincere projects like these to get students engaged in these types of conversations. It is important not to lose sight in the fact that we are all in this together.

The loss of etiquette in the classroom



Lindsay Rayner
OPINION EDITOR

What happened to classroom etiquette? What happened to students admiring and respecting their professors, students actually absorbing the information that is being taught and — gasp — participating in the discussions that are being laid out in front of them?

Somewhere along the way our society diminished college classes into a nuisance instead of a privilege. For most, college classes have become a place where it is acceptable to wear pajamas, complain about

a hangover and catch up on Instagram. Few listen to what the intelligent, highly educated and experienced professor has to say. And why would they? We have our computers and the syllabus is online, we'll figure it out. So we sit completely docile in our seats, waiting for an acceptable time to start packing up, even if the teacher is still lecturing.

But what's worse than these docile students are the entitled ones. The students who believe they are superior to the professor. Those who, for some odd reason, feel what they have to say is more important. The students who speak out of line, making rude and offensive comments to the professor, acting as if the rest of the

class will somehow be impressed with their outlandish behavior.

It is appalling to me that I am still experiencing this kind of student behavior in senior level classes. During situations such as these I can't help but to drop my jaw in disbelief. It is baffling to me how anyone could speak to a person of authority in such a way, let alone an accomplished professor in their own classroom in front of a crowd.

There is no excuse for behavior like this from students, and I wish professors would make that more clear. Professors, don't be afraid to take charge of your classroom. Justifying this sort of behavior from these students only makes it worse, and is unfair

for the rest of the class.

Yes, college is a time to focus on yourself, have a good time and make as many crazy memories as you can.

It's okay to go to class hungover on occasion and sneak peaks at your phone once in awhile. But at the end of the day, we are all paying thousands of dollars to attend these classes. These classes, these professional connections, these lessons are what is vital once we graduate from this place. So for the students who are too immature to realize this, please do us all a favor and leave.

Lindsay Rayner is a senior majoring in communication. For questions or comments, contact opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Valentine's Day: The holiday that lost its way



Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

OUR DAILY MEL

I am single. I hate Valentine's Day. I am single and I hate Valentine's Day. However, do not misread me. The two are not connected in any way.

I hate Valentine's Day not because I don't have someone to share it with, because I actually do — my best friend's birthday is on Valentine's Day so joke's on you. Your stereotypes and cliches do not fit me.

No, I hate Valentine's Day for more than just the realization it gives me that I will probably be a crazy cat (dog) lady for the rest of my life. I hate Valentine's Day for the message it sends to the innocent people who misguidedly buy into the fake, yes fake, holiday.

Valentine's Day is the one day out of the year we are all told we have to wake up and spend over half of our paycheck trying to prove our love to the people in our lives.

The only problem is love should not have to be proved. The whole point of love is it is unconditional. It doesn't rely on carat size or price range. Love is supposed to precede material value. It is supposed to be real and sorry to burst your bubble, but Valentine's Day is fake.

Valentine's Day is supposed to be about sharing real feelings and telling people how you really feel. The problem is commercialism has hijacked this



COURTESY OF QUANDO

Wine glasses and a bottle of wine sit on a table set for a romantic Valentine's Day dinner. Some think the holiday is overly commercialized today.

respectable holiday and replaced it with one solely based on buying items to speak for us.

Instead of being honest, spontaneous or creative, people seem to rely on the four or five cheesy lines inside of a \$3 Hallmark card to give some big proclamation of their feelings.

Valentine's Day gives couples an unrealistic pressure to win over their significant other's love. I have seen so many of my friends stress out over finding the "perfect gift" or even worse get

disappointed when their significant other does not get them what they want.

Love should be pressure free. It should be simple and in the moment. Valentine's Day should be like it was when you were a kid — fun. It should not be a last minute hassle or extra stress.

I never thought I would be saying "back when I was a kid," but really back when I was a kid Valentine's Day was not a big deal. It was just another day out of the year when the whole class got to eat cupcakes and cheese doodles. Everyone got a valentine,

everyone spent the same amount of time and energy making valentines and everyone went home fat and happy.

I have no problem with the idea behind Valentine's Day. I think it is truly beautiful. I really do, but I think the world has gotten just a little too far from the original understanding of Valentine's Day. What do you say, stand with me and help me Make Valentine's Day Great Again.

Melissa Glen is a sophomore majoring in communication. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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72 hours

MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

TODAY

The Black Light Project Documentary Showing with Dialog
PCC Goess Student Center
6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Ultimate Ladies' Night
Fire American Tavern
9 p.m.

SATURDAY

Young, Gifted, and Black: A Talent Showcase
Jenkins Fine Arts Center
7 p.m.

Big Mean Sound Machine
Crossbones Tavern
9 p.m.

SUNDAY

Jessy Esterline
Buccaneer Music Hall
10 p.m.



Alex Theus reads her original poem at Trollingwood Taproom and Brewery in a Valentine's Day reading about love. AMANDA SHEA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Artists share views on love

Amanda Shea
TEC STAFF

Valentine's Day was the perfect backdrop for a poetry reading about love, but as people gathered in the room, the last thing they might have expected were the words of heartbreak.

"What inspired me was this kind of idea that I have now of what love is and how I'm trying to move away from that notion of like...romantic love is the ultimate of who you are as a person," said Alex Theus, who will soon be re-attending East Carolina University and majoring in university studies. "We're taught that that's the final form of a relationship with somebody...[I'm] having to distance myself of that old notion."

Theus opened up for a collection of performers Tuesday at Trollingwood Taproom and Brewery by reading a handful of her own original works, with topics ranging from a previous relationship to her own journals.

"For a long time I was really struggling with my mental health," said Theus. "I found this when I was going back through those archives, a lot of what I used to write had to do with this really, sort of, prolonged, dark time in my life...I've had so many polarizing experiences that have completely turned my life around."

Though her set consisted of love and everything surrounding it, Theus said she draws inspiration from other sources as well.

"These past few months since I was a teenager, I'm not really miserable," said Theus. "At first that freaked me out because I thought 'If I'm not angry, what am I going to write about?' Then I looked up, I looked around me and I thought, 'Literally everything else, everything around me.'"

This was only Theus' second reading, though she has plans for more in the future.

"I did theatre for a really long time, but it's different when it's your stuff. It's a really vulnerable

spot to be in, but I think I like it," she said. "You know, art is a language and the purpose of it, whether it's aesthetic, ritual, utilitarian, is to connect and to foster those connections and it's intoxicating when it happens, honestly, and so I want to do it as much as I can."

Among the other performers was Nathan Black, who has already published one book of poetry, and will be publishing his second book, "The Frozen Garden," this March.

"[Writing poetry] is like being in love," said Black. "If you have to force yourself to do it, it's pointless...If you have something really on your heart that you want to say and it just happens to come out in a poetic form, then I'd say yeah, do that, but don't do poetry."

Theus said though she's struggled with her mental health in the past, sharing her poetry has helped.

"The most radical form of self care I've taken is sharing my work, sharing my painting with my friends," she said. "Coming out and doing these readings, supporting my friends in their endeavours, artistically, because, like, it works. It just works somehow. It really is beautiful and I think it's really what we need right now, artists who are willing to share and connect with each other."

Both Black and Theus stressed the importance, and impact, of art in their lives and in the community in general.

"Words are so powerful. Words are history and identity, both written and oral," said Theus. "Words are history and identity, words can heal you, words can literally be used to kill people, and they are, so to an aspiring poet I would say, if you feel called to be a poet, you've got a sacred calling. Meditate on it, and work with it. Use your powers for good."

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

Gallery to change opinions

Angel DeJesus
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Pitt Community College and the Black Light Project teamed up to change negative stereotypes of black men in eastern North Carolina by showcasing various local art.

Every February, PCC has "Black History Exhibitions" which are designed for the community to celebrate African-American culture. This year, with the help of the Black Light Project, PCC hopes to showcase the artwork from talented locals.

Black Light Project uses video and photography to show positive images of black men in communities across the United States. Tonya Lynch is at the head of this project and said it is her duty as an African-American to show who black men really are.

"Everyday we are bombarded with images that portray [African-American men] in a very negative light," Lynch said. "Media narrative focuses on what they are not doing, who they are, what they are not contributing and I want to challenge that with this project."

The exhibit opened on Jan. 30 and will run until Feb. 28. Art can still be submitted up until that time.

"I think this is a fantastic thing to have in our community," Deron Mayo, a guest to the exhibit from West Philadelphia, said. "Especially with all that has happened recently in the black community, it is nice to see people who want to show people like myself in a positive manner."

Some of the art shown are photographs of individuals within the community and African-American culture.

"The thing I want people to know is that this is about the subjects," Lynch said. "These men light up our world."

On Feb. 16, PCC will be having a showing of the Black Light Project film. There will also be an open discussion involving the crew of Black Light Project and the community. The screening is open to the public.

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

>> MOVIES AND TV



Ava DuVernay is breaking boundaries as a female African-American director

Part 3 of a 4 part Thursday series celebrating African-Americans in movies and television

Arvanna Smart
TEC STAFF

Ava DuVernay is not the first African-American woman director and producer, but she is one of the greats.

DuVernay didn't start making films until she was 33 years old. While working as a publicist, she was introduced to the filmmaker world. She made her directorial debut in 2008 with the documentary "This is the Life."

Over the course of nine years, DuVernay established herself as one of the directors to look out for. She has won awards for her hit show on the OWN network, "Queen Sugar," while also winning an award for outstanding Netflix Documentary at the NAACP Image Awards for her film, "13th." To top off the success of her recent works, DuVernay has become the first African-American female to receive \$100 million dollars to work on her own version of the Disney film "A Wrinkle in Time."

DuVernay makes it a point to mention on Twitter, tweeting, "Capable of doing so. Not by a long shot. Thanks @DisneyStudios for breaking glass with me."

Not only is the director getting a huge budget for the film from Disney, the modern adaption has gathered much more attention as it was announced that Oprah Winfrey will star in the film as Mrs. Which, a selfish old billionaire.

The movie is part of Disney's new diversity image along with other revamped classics such as the "Rocketeer" and a new adaption of "The Nutcracker."

"I watched '13th' with my roommates when we came back to school from winter break," said Dominique Burke, senior biology major. "I never knew DuVernay was the one to direct and produce the film. It's always cool to find out a woman, especially an African-American woman, created such big film in a part of the entertainment world that is usually dominated by males."

DuVernay also broke other social norms by becoming the first black woman to receive the nomination for Best Director at the Golden Globes. She is now one of the only three black directors to be nominated for the award. She was nominated for directing the Martin Luther King Jr. biopic "Selma."



Ava DuVernay poses. She was the first black woman nominated for the Best Documentary Feature at the Oscars. OSCAR.ORG

In 2012, DuVernay became the first African-American woman to win the best director prize at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival for her second feature film, "Middle of Nowhere." This year, DuVernay became the first black female director in history to be nominated for Best Documentary feature at the Oscars.

Although DuVernay has earned many nominations and made history with her films,

she has been overlooked by the award committees and often her films are snubbed.

According to Vogue.com, DuVernay says the recognition is nice but not a real change.

"It's not enough to have roses thrown at my feet, or Ryan Murphy's feet, or the woman who's doing 'Jessica Jones,' Melissa Rosenberg, because we decided to have more women directors," said DuVernay. "That's not enough."

DuVernay isn't the first African American female director and she certainly isn't the last but she is one of the greats that has slowly broken boundaries for our generation to watch before our eyes. As DuVernay has already established herself in the industry in such a short period of time, one can only expect nothing but more from the director.

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

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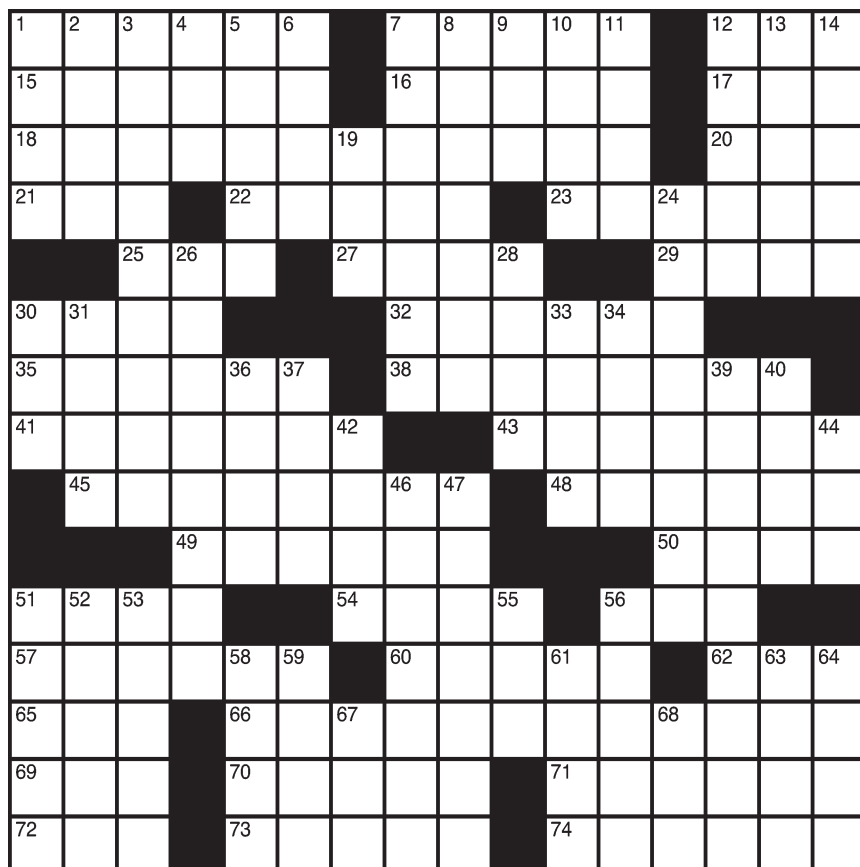
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Truly wretched
- 7 E equivalent, on scores
- 12 Bygone space station
- 15 Reaction to a comeback
- 16 Contact
- 17 Long-necked bird
- 18 Fitness challenge
- 20 Metz moniker
- 21 Colo. setting
- 22 See-through
- 23 Even-odds situation
- 25 Scand. land
- 27 Not much
- 29 Nosebag fill
- 30 Male pal, in slang
- 32 Cold sore relief product
- 35 Cellist with multiple Grammys
- 38 Baseball collectibles
- 41 Pure
- 43 Stated as fact
- 45 Sits in a cell
- 48 Set up in a glade, say
- 49 Bike whose company 66-Across ends 26-Down
- 50 Name on a shuttle, whose company 66-Across ends 24-Down
- 51 Lamb sandwich
- 54 Pamplona kudos
- 56 Outrage
- 57 Mountain predator
- 60 Trojan War epic
- 62 Church based in SLC, Utah
- 65 Center
- 66 Market representative?
- 69 Foofaraw
- 70 "American Buffalo" playwright
- 71 Erie Canal city
- 72 Passel
- 73 More than amuses
- 74 Greenery

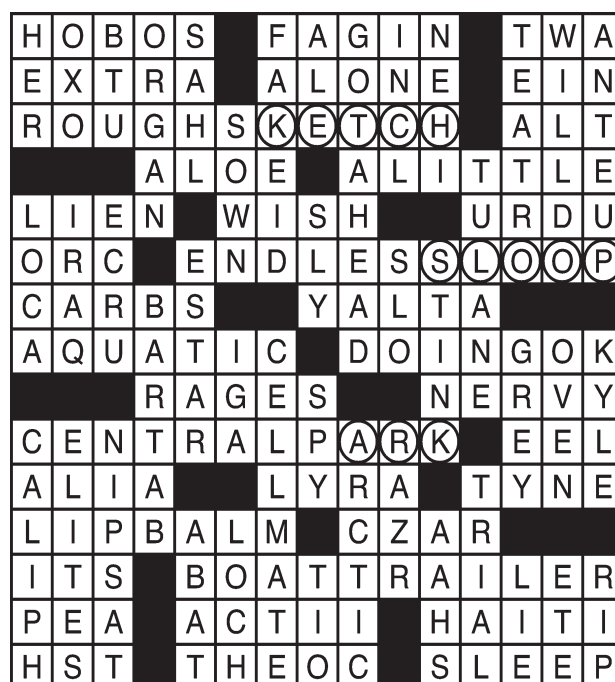
DOWN

- 1 Splitting target
- 2 Short cuts
- 3 Reagan-era slogan



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

- 4 Outer: Pref.
- 5 Run after
- 6 ___ support
- 7 Liberty
- 8 Auto with a prancing horse logo, whose company 66-Across ends 18-Across
- 9 Mike Trout's team, on scoreboards
- 10 Check no.
- 11 "Sons of Anarchy" actor Rossi
- 12 Brainy bunch
- 13 Passing remark?
- 14 Beef cuts
- 19 Field
- 24 Alternative energy vehicle
- 26 Unreserved way to go
- 28 "Hulk" star Eric
- 30 Fly-___: air passes
- 31 Juicer's juice?
- 33 Nonsense
- 34 "___ Holden": Irving Bacheller novel
- 36 Cactus League spring training city
- 37 Neil deGrasse Tyson subj.



- 39 Blizzard restriction, perhaps
- 40 Final Four matchup
- 42 Rural storehouse
- 44 Plays usually involving the SS
- 46 "I'm a fan!"
- 47 Shoelace holders
- 51 IM option
- 52 "Seriously?"
- 53 Apply, as sunscreen
- 55 Respectful word
- 56 Pastoral piece
- 58 Stop-offs before big dates, maybe
- 59 Muscat money
- 61 Rush job letters
- 63 "Knock it off!"
- 64 Stallone and Stone
- 67 Nashville awards gp.
- 68 Mgmt. degree

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

Thursday's Puzzle Solved 2/16/17

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

COMIC

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COURTESY OF ECU PIRATES

A member of the men's team swims the butterfly earlier this season. ECU is competing in the AAC Championships through this week.

Pirate Club earns donation from alumnus

Staff Report

East Carolina University Pirate Club received its largest donation in history Wednesday that will put \$2.21 million into the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Southside Renovation project set to be completed in the fall of 2018.

The anonymous donor is a lifelong eastern North Carolina resident and ECU alumni who now has an accredited business career. His total donation of \$2.21 million will also allot \$110,000 for the Bennett-Hudson Endowment Fund, and will be a platform for other donors across the nation to continue contributing more to the \$55 million project.

"What excites me most about this gift is the fact that it comes from a Pirate alumnus who has been extremely successful in business," ECU Director of Athletics Jeff Compher said. "(He) has chosen to honor ECU Athletics with the largest single-gift in our history."

This donation is the 11th seven-figure donation in the past year, reaching the project's total to over \$27 million. This project will put in a southside tower and increase the stadium's seating capacity by 1,000 thanks to a new club level in the tower along with Loge Boxes, Standard Suites and Founder's Suites.

Not only will the plan affect Dowdy-Ficklen, but other on-campus structures such as the Ward Sports Medicine building, Scales Field House and the indoor hitting facility next to baseball's Lewis Field at Clark-LeClair Stadium is also part of the development plan.

"I am very grateful to East Carolina for providing me the knowledge to succeed in life, and in business," the donor said. "I am proud to be in a position to give back; in life, it's not about what you get, it's what you give. Every gift, large or small, counts."

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

For questions or comments, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Men look for trifecta

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina swimming and diving teams will compete in Houston, Texas in the American Athletic Conference Championships yesterday through Saturday, with the men's team hoping to grab its third-straight title.

Kobe will lead the team for what could be the final time, as he will retire from ECU and coaching after 37 years. This is also the last time the senior swimmers and divers will be competing at the AAC Championships, and Kobe has had to help focus his group.

"I'm not thinking about how this will be the last time

I will be coaching the swim team," Kobe said. "I am thinking about the bigger picture and about the team performing well this upcoming week. After it's all said and done, I will sit back and then reflect on my experience at ECU."

Last season the men's swim team won its second consecutive conference championship in dominant fashion. The Pirates outscored Southern Methodist, who finished in second place, 907-828.5. The year before it came down to ECU and SMU in the final relays but the Pirates outscored their foe, 892.5-858.

"Winning the conference championship my sopho-

more year was the sweetest since it was my first," senior Will Hicks said. "We did not go in thinking about winning again, but we were focused and we were able to win conference again."

There are certain things that every coach looks for when it comes to performing at a high stage, and Kobe expressed what he's looking for at the championships, which is the same in every meet he is a part of.

"I will be looking for that good energy level," Kobe said. "I will be looking for that excitement on the team. The past few weeks we had that positive vibe that has helped us prepare for the upcoming

meet."

Coming off the South Carolina Invitational a few weeks back, the team has had the opportunity to focus on just practicing and getting itself ready for the championships. Based on what Kobe has seen in practice he anticipates another impressive performance. He believes they're once again the team to beat.

"Everyone on the team has to do their job," Kobe said. "If everyone does their part, the seeding in the end will not matter."

BASEBALL

continued from A1

Bortles' fellow captain, Tate Blackman, also returns to the Rebels' infield. Blackman was named Second Team All-SEC for his play at second base. In his sophomore campaign, Blackman also played in every game, slashing .322/.392/.827 with 38 RBI. He and now-graduated shortstop Errol Robinson combined to form the most formidable infield in the SEC, turning a conference-high 30 double-plays.

The lack of inexperience isn't something that Godwin has had to worry about this off-season in Greenville. Instead, he has had to keep the Pirates focused while ignoring the onslaught of top-10 rankings that have been thrown their way, which he insists his team has done and is now ready to start playing.

"We're just focusing on getting better. The game will speak for itself when we step on the field," Godwin said.

There will also be an abundance of strong pitching in the opening series. The Pirates return Friday night starter Evan Kruczynski and Jacob Wolfe, while the Rebels return their No. 2 starter from a

year ago, David Parkinson, and feature three freshman All-Americans. Both teams have Stopper-of-the-Year candidates anchoring their bullpens — Joe Ingle for ECU and Will Stokes for Ole Miss.

Godwin is looking forward to going back and taking on the last school to employ him. Even though he won't get to play in front of The Jungle at ECU until Feb. 24, he knows his team will be playing in front of a great fan base in Oxford.

"(Ole Miss and ECU) are both very passionate about their baseball. Great fan bases. The baseball players are very recognizable whether in Oxford or in Greenville," Godwin said. "Their stadium may be a little bigger than ours, but other than that I guess there's a lot of comparisons."

The three-game series will kick off at Swayze Field Friday at 5 p.m. All three games can be seen live on the SEC Network or heard on WNCT 1070 AM. Saturday's game will begin at 2:30 p.m., and Sunday's at 1 p.m.

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

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