



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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## Taking the Stage

Junior takes unexpected stroll at Fashion Week



**Madison Lawson**  
TEC STAFF

Just 15 minutes before designer David Alford's fashion show in New York City, East Carolina University student Lindsay Grimmitt, along with 13 other ECU students, were busy steaming dresses backstage.

Amid the hustle and bustle, Alford was in a panic since one of his models was a no-show. What started as a joke backstage among the students about Grimmitt walking, turned into a reality when Alford asked if she could replace the missing model. In a state of disbelief, she accepted and within a few minutes was seen strutting down the runway at New York Fashion Week.

"It was the craziest experience of my life," said junior fashion merchandising major Grimmitt. "In a matter of minutes, I went from wearing all black and holding hangers, to being sewn into a designer dress and walking in NYFW."

For five days and four nights, 23 students, 13 from ECU, were granted the opportunity to go to New York City last week through Banson NYC, a program dedicated to providing students with an opportunity to get a closer look at the fashion industry. Many, including Grimmitt, learned first-hand how a fashion show operates.

According to Grimmitt, the group attended four runway shows. Two of the designers were Matt Sarafa and Mondo Guerra from the television show, Project Runway.

"Matt was probably one of the most

down-to-earth designers I have met," said Grimmitt. "We talked for like 10 minutes about makeup and he even followed me on Instagram."

In addition to meeting designers, Grimmitt said one of her favorite memories from the trip was getting to see runway shows up close. Sitting front row at the Stewart Hotel across from Madison Square Garden, Grimmitt and the rest of the students got to get up close and personal with the designs.

"I could literally reach out and touch the models. We were that close," said Grimmitt. "One of my favorite emerging designers had an all black and nude show with some amazing streetwear pieces. I went home feeling inspired."

According to Grimmitt, the moment that takes the cake for her was when she was asked to walk in Alford's show. David Alford is a fashion house based out of Harare, Zimbabwe, whose designs are eccentric and beyond the norm, according to its website.

Inspired by coral reefs, she walked in a purple and black sponge-like patterned dress that had a high neckline and two big pleats in the middle.

Despite everyone bombarding her backstage, Grimmitt said she wasn't nervous at all.

"I knew I had to do it," said Grimmitt. "I asked some of the models what to do and went out there and tried my best. I guess I did OK because the designer came up and hugged me afterwards."

Reminiscing on the experience, Grimmitt said she still gets goosebumps

> **FASHION** page A2

## ECU student charged with statutory rape

**Melissa Glen**  
TEC STAFF

Pitt County Sheriff's office arrested East Carolina University student Stephen Duncan last Thursday, who is now facing multiple charges of statutory rape.



**Stephen Duncan**

The 28-year-old was charged with five counts of statutory rape, two counts of statutory sex offense and six counts of first degree kidnapping, according to the Pitt County Sheriff's office.

Lt. Kip Gaskins, the public information officer for Pitt County Sheriff's office, said Duncan was having an on-going relationship with a 14-year-old girl.

Duncan is currently being held at the Pitt County Detention Center under a \$5 million bond, according to Lt. Gaskins.

According to the Greenville's City Clerk's office, Duncan's first court appearance will be on March 1.

To contact this writer, email [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## SGA signs free cookie resolution

**Mary Katherine Karcher**  
TEC STAFF

In an effort to connect with the student body and cure students' sweet tooth, the Student Government Association General Assembly has decided to pass out free cookies outside Mendenhall Student Center every Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This resolution was put together by the Marketing and Communication Committee and has been dubbed, "The Free Cookie Friday Act."

According to the SGA resolution this will serve as positive reinforcement to students "to celebrate the end of each work week with the students by providing delicious cookies to them."

With the cost of preparing cookies being relatively low compared to the benefit of providing a service to students, the assembly ruled to allocate \$15 per week to buy five dozen cookies to give out. Each week, two SGA members will man the tables outside Mendenhall with the goal of establishing relationships with those they represent.

As a co-sponsor of this resolution, SGA Secretary Alex Prunka said the overall goal is to reach out to students on campus.

"We are very excited about 'Free Cookie Friday,'" said Prunka. "It is a small gesture to show students we care and a great opportunity for us to connect."

"Free Cookie Friday" will continue throughout the Spring 2017 semester and will be automatically renewed in the Fall with the return of students to campus.

To contact this writer, email [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## New housing to come to uptown after \$32 million deal finalized

**Cayla Rodney**  
TEC STAFF

The City of Greenville closed a \$32 million deal that will bring new student housing to Uptown Greenville along with offices and retail spaces.

The property is located at the corner of Dickinson Avenue and Reade Circle. The sale of the land was only complete after the Sidewalk Greenville LLC paid \$1,505,744, which was the appraised value.

Current plans by Sidewalk include 86 new student housing units for future development, called University Edge. In collaboration with this development, Sidewalk will build Dickinson Lofts, which will include 58 units. University Edge will target students while Dickinson Lofts hopes to entice young professionals living in Greenville.

"This is a great opportunity for Greenville, (East Carolina University) students and young professionals," said Jim Blount, a project partner. "This will be state-of-the-art with updated amenities,

social common areas, a pool and a workout room."

The company said the major differences between the University Edge housing versus Dickinson Lofts are the number of beds per unit, amenities and the interior finishes. The exterior of the building is to be no less than 40 percent masonry and won't include vinyl. The development will be a five-story structure.

"The way it's designed, the Dickinson Loft will be suitable for young professionals who want to live by themselves or have one roommate," said Blount. "But both students and young professionals will share the area so we feel like it will be a unique social bond."

Blount said the center city location will be perfect for students because they will be in walking distance from the university, restaurants and other uptown businesses.

"The Sidewalk Development project will be the third prominent housing complex to be developed and located in

the Uptown District," said City Manager Barbara Lipscomb in a city news release. "However, unlike the other two projects, which feature primarily student housing, this one will also feature market-rate housing as well as significant retail space."

This project will also bring a minimum of 20,000 square feet of leasable office and retail space and at least 120 residential units.

The city believes this project is essential for the revitalization of uptown.

"We are trying to promote a walkable community and this will locate students closely to school," said Scott Godefroy, city engineer. "With students living in the uptown area and others, the support for businesses and restaurants that are located uptown will benefit from students living there."

The close proximity for students and the increased tax bases for the city was seen as a win-win.

> **HOUSING** page A2

### ONLINE

» Reggae group Elephant Convoy set to play Crossbones Saturday night

» ECU baseball earns first win of 2017 with 10-0 rout of Campbell

### SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BRIEFS

## ECU to host Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program

On Saturday, East Carolina University will host its 12th Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program. The program will consist of lectures concerning foreign policy and the topic of voting. Members will also have the opportunity to discuss and debate their position on foreign policy in the U.S. Government.

The event is in the Rivers Building in room 105 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost of attendance into the event is \$65.

## Event highlights differences of living in The Grid

On Feb. 27, the Off-Campus Student Services will host an event about living in The Grid. Living in the Grid: Rights and Responsibilities, will distinguish the differences between living in an apartment and living in a house. As well as, some things to keep in mind if planning on renting a house in the Greenville area.

The event will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Mendenhall Student Center in room 221.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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

## 'FaculTea' focuses on protest policing

Samuel Privette  
TEC STAFF

With protests capturing the eyes of the nation throughout last year's election cycle and today's often divided society, observing the course of demonstrations has become a pressing task for many in the sociology field.

Last summer, East Carolina University professor and sociology department chair Bob Edwards led a team in collecting, analyzing and describing the nature of protests.

Edwards and his team of students and faculty were pitted in the middle of the surging protests on the days of the Republican and Democratic National Conventions this summer.

Wednesday, Edwards spoke at the first 'FaculTea' event in a Joyner Library conference room to fellow professors and students. Throughout the presentation, Edwards provided room for questions and comments and a rich conversation about the topic ensued.

Edwards' research focused on the behavior of the protesters and the response by police. Edwards emphasized the need for sociology professionals to study protests because of misconceptions and differing agendas.

"Protests are not well described by the press, nor are they described well by the people who participate in them," said Edwards. Edwards said the press focuses only on the most exciting aspects of demonstration, like an isolated pocket of violence.

Describing the demonstrations that took place outside of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio and the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is exactly what Edwards sought out to do.

At ground zero in both cities, Edwards described his team's observance of protests that took place throughout the week and how they differed from each other.

Edwards said that his focus was "looking at patterns over time and how they changed" in the relationship between police and protesters.

He showed pictures that displayed tactical police formations at Cleveland protests, with



COURTESY OF POLITIFACT.COM

Police arrest a protester in Cleveland, Ohio outside the Republican National Convention in July of 2016.

images depicting a police presence that almost equaled the number of protestors.

Many images of the Cleveland protests at the RNC were shown in comparison to that of Philadelphia for the DNC.

Philadelphia is a city roughly five times the size of Cleveland in population and its police force is almost 10 times larger than its political convention counterpart. However, images shown in Edwards' presentation revealed a much more extensive police response in Cleveland compared to Philadelphia, despite the huge rift in population size.

"The (policing in Cleveland) did a lot more intimidating in terms of their presence," said Edwards.

Throughout his observance of each cities' demonstrations Edwards continuously referenced the "Adversarial Dance" project. The dance refers to "strategic incapacitation negotiated management and escalated force"

which are all means of the police for responding to different types of demonstrations.

William Downs, dean of the Thomas Harriot School of Arts & Sciences, said the presentation held Wednesday and the forum of questions and comments from the audience provided a great platform for discussion.

Edwards' empirical data is still in the process of turning into a concrete study and articles are currently being written about his team's findings.

"The most interesting way of collecting data is through observation, and he got to do exactly that," said Downs.

The FaculTea events will continue to provide professors an opportunity to showcase their research, but Edwards' dive into the nature of demonstrations couldn't come in a more timely fashion.

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

HOUSING  
continued from A1

"We have been promoting the uptown area and a lot of the properties are in transition of

redevelopment and this was good opportunity to improve the uptown area as a whole," said Godefroy.

This project stemmed from the city's Dickinson Avenue Improvements Project that began

in 2014.

"Sidewalks and new streetscape the city is undergoing had made it more user friendly," said Godefroy. "By doing beautification projects, the city laid a foundation to begin larger, revenue enhancing

projects."

Construction for the Dickinson Avenue modernization is set to begin on April 3, 2017.

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



VOTE

★ ★ FOR ★ ★

SGA

PRESIDENT

VICE

PRESIDENT

ASSEMBLY  
REPRESENTATIVE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

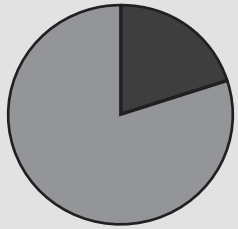
East Carolina University

Vote for your SGA representatives  
on Pirate Port!

- Wednesday, February 2, 8:00am - Voting begins
- Wednesday, February 22, 11am-2pm - Polling Stations: Todd and West End Dining Halls
- Wednesday, February 22, 7:00pm - Voter Engagement event at Women's Basketball Game vs. Cincinnati
- Friday, February 24, 5:00pm - Voting ends

## ANSWER

Did you go to the Waka Flocka Flame concert?



YES 20%  
NO 80%

## QUESTION

Are you going to vote in the SGA election?

Vote online at [www.TheEastCarolinian.com](http://www.TheEastCarolinian.com)

# Our view

## SGA election period needs to be extended

Today and tomorrow are the last two days to cast your vote in the Student Government Association elections at East Carolina University.

SGA officials and members have the power to enhance experiences for ECU students, plan charity, passport and diversity events, as well as act as a voice for the student body, typically having more contact with administration than an average student.

However, with only 16 days from start to end of SGA elections, there is not enough time for tickets to campaign or for students to learn about the candidates running.

Prior to the two weeks given to campaigning, candidates attend only a handful of meetings. Campaigning for elections began at 8 a.m. on Feb. 8. Voting began on Pirate Port

yesterday at 8 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

We as a staff believe there is not enough time for the student body to get to know candidates, for candidates to get to know the other tickets, or for candidates to make informed, thoughtful plans in order to later follow through on promises made.

Though there are banners on main campus, many students don't even know elections are going on. If more time was allotted for the election process, more students would be able to get involved. The debate, which was held on Monday, was one of the only things that brought candidates together.

Nonetheless, make sure to cast your vote. Take advantage of the voice you have to make ECU a better place.

# Time to unite after election



### Don't Mind Matt

Matthew Prensky  
TEC STAFF

In the months since the surprise election of Donald Trump, the fervor by which he ran his campaign has not yet diminished. The boldness President Trump used to travel where no candidate has before both ostracized and imprisoned the American voters.

In just over a month since the 45th president of the United States of America took office the two contrasting views of Trump seem to fall along party lines. To some Democrats across the country the election of a former reality star and business mogul brought them to tears. For many Republicans in America the election of Donald Trump symbolized the start of a four-year escape filled with euphoria and freedom.

It is acceptable to be disappointed in the election, to have concerns about the new commander in chief or even shed a tear, but being president of this nation brings with it a four-year term. In those four years, Democrats have to compose themselves.

Praying for impeachment, striking or even starting petitions for a state to secede from this nation is an overreaction. For example, a small group of individuals in California are using President Trump's election to get signatures for a statewide secession vote in 2018.

"For supporters, Trump's election, the desire of some Californians to lead the resistance to his presidency and the group's growing volunteer base has given the group a

semblance of credibility it has long desired," according to a February 2017 Washington Post article describing the movement.

For some citizens of a Democratic state like California to consider secession as a result of the presidential election is both unpatriotic and embarrassing. While this is an extreme example, many Democrats have made irrational or unrealistic statements calling President Trump "Not My President." For the supporters of this movement and other Democrats feeling the same way, two important facts have been forgotten.

First, President Trump was elected fairly by the same system Democrats benefited from over the last eight years. Second, the tradition of democracy must be respected, win or lose.

Democrats should use their First Amendment right to freedom of speech to constructively criticize the administration. A person telling the world they will leave the United States because of President Trump isn't constructive, it's childish. If someone has a complaint about President Trump then they should try to fix it, instead of wallowing in sorrow.

In contrast, the Republican Party has embarked on what seems like a four-year carnival filled with freedom, fearlessness and isolationism.

This jubilation the Republicans have been enjoying since the November win is just as much of an overreaction as the Democrats.

President Trump is not King Midas. Everything he touches will not turn to gold. Trump can't accomplish everything he promised nor should he.

Furthermore, Republicans should remem-



COURTESY OF BDCWIRE.COM

President Donald Trump looks out at a crowd. The 2016 election and campaign season was polarizing.

ber that not every word escaping President Trump's mouth is a fact. Blindly following any human, Commander-in-Chief or not is a dangerous notion. Hitler and Mussolini also used their citizens blind nationalist loyalty to create fascist regimes before the start of the second world war.

Beyond Republicans using a healthy amount of skepticism and curiosity, they should remember that the United States has an important role to play in the international community.

Recently, at the Munich Security Conference, Arizona Sen. John McCain, who is a Republican, voiced his support for a non-isolationist American foreign policy agenda.

"I am a proud, unapologetic believer in the West, and I believe we must always, always stand up for it. For if we do not, who will?" according to a Washington Post article covering McCain's comments at the conference.

International governmental organizations like the World Trade Organization, United

Nations or North Atlantic Treaty Organization were established for calculated reasons. These different groups provide forums to discuss trade, security and diplomacy. World leaders are invited to use these tools to advance their country's agenda instead of using 140 characters on Twitter.

Four years is a long time to be mad about an election. Republican or Democrat, both sides need to remember that we are united by the stars and stripes. The Commander-in-Chief is a temporary appointment, but the continuation and health of this nation should be eternal.

If Democrats and Republicans can not forgive the election and establish a working relationship based on civility then maybe this nation does not deserve the respect of the world.

Matthew Prensky is a sophomore majoring in political science and communication. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Reinstating value of history in society



Connor Wilkins  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I would like for you to ask yourself this question: Do you actually care about or enjoy the subject of history?

If I was a betting person, I would bet all of the money I have that 95 percent of you would say no for multiple reasons. You probably had a teacher in high school (or college) that made it about as exciting as watching paint dry. I think we have all had our fair share of those. Maybe you were a math person, who figured that people who tried to turn history into a career were wasting their time. Maybe you just found it unimportant and sat in class thinking "How does this relate to me?" or "Who cares about this?" I've heard

every reason under the sun as to why people hate history, and being the history buff that I am, I try to explain to them why it is important. I usually get brushed off for being lame or being a nerd, but I would much rather be lame and well-versed in history than cool and ignorant about history.

History is important for one big reason. If we understand the past, then it becomes easier to understand what is going on in the present and what will happen in the future.

As a society we have become so focused on progress and what the future holds that we often forget how we even got to the point we are at now. For example, you probably learned that during World War II many Japanese-Americans were rounded up and sent to internment camps after Pearl Harbor in order to "keep the country safe." Aren't we applying

this same thought process to Muslims today? We may not be sending them to internment camps, but it is the same principle and idea. You can find historical connections to every major social, political or economical event that happens today.

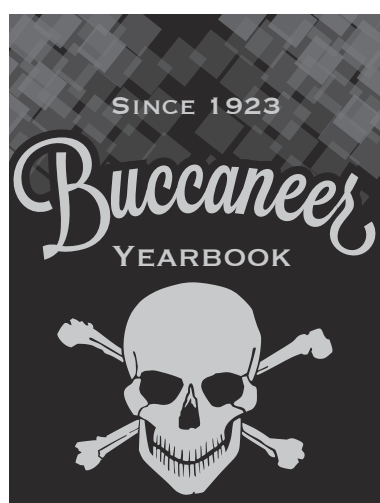
If we all understood the past, then we wouldn't continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. You probably have heard the statement that history repeats itself, and that is true to an extent. However, the more accurate statement is that people repeat themselves. We need to learn from our past mistakes so we won't make them again, but in order to do that, you have to understand history first.

You want to understand why Donald Trump got elected as the 45th president? Take a look at Andrew Jackson and the election of 1828. I could go on and on with examples, but

I'd probably end up boring you like that history teacher you used to have that stood up in front of the class that talked the whole time. History is much more exciting than that. By now you are probably saying to yourself "If history is so important then why do history majors have such a hard time finding jobs after college?"

History is about so much more than just simply getting a job or memorizing useless facts. History gives you a view of the past, which in turn will allow you to make more informed and better decisions regarding the future. I'm not saying that everyone should love history, because that would be an unrealistic expectation. I'm saying that everyone should understand history, because without it we wouldn't be where we are today.

Connor Wilkins is a junior majoring in history education/history. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).



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**72**  
hours  
MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

**TODAY**

**What's in Your Glass**

Firefly Wine Shop  
7 p.m.

**1776**

McGinnis Theatre  
8 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

**GuitarFest**

Turnage Gallery  
2 p.m.

**1776**

McGinnis Theatre  
8 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

**1776**

McGinnis Theatre  
8 p.m.

**Crossbones Tavern's two-year anniversary**

**Band: Elephant Convoy**  
Crossbones Tavern  
9 p.m.

**SUNDAY**

**1776**

McGinnis Theatre  
2 p.m.

**Russ Varnell & His Too Country Band**

Whirligig Stage  
7:30 p.m.

## A 'waffle' lot of waffles



Smash Waffles delivers specialty waffles from its delivery truck, "The Smash Shack," directly to customers.

## Local business delivers waffles to doorsteps

**Amanda Shea**  
TEC STAFF

Two North Carolina men brought the possibility of waffles to the steps of every East Carolina University student's doors with a click of a button.

Justin Cox and Hunter Harrison are the founders of Smash Waffles, a delivery service that brings made-from-scratch waffles straight to your door by ordering online or over the phone.

"Justin and I originally met to discuss an app idea that we were considering developing," said Harrison. "By the end of the conversation we were going back and forth about food service ideas. We've often joked that restaurants are the most risky businesses to start because of the startup capital requirements and their high failure rate."

Despite the initial reservations, Smash Waffles was launched in December of last year and has seen a huge spike in interest since its opening.

"We've had dozens of franchise inquiries since launching in mid December, most of which are in much larger markets than Greenville," said Harrison. "Expanding to Raleigh was a natural way for us to see what it takes to launch Smash in a larger market so that we can adequately prepare for future growth."

The inquiries resulted in the opening of a Raleigh branch and proved to be the best possible next step forward for Cox and Harrison.

"Response to Smash Waffles in both markets has been overwhelming," Harrison said. "We've done our best to staff up to meet the demand. It's taken us a few weeks, but we are finally sufficiently staffed in Greenville. We're hoping to have Raleigh fully staffed by the end of February."

While there is not a physical location for the business in Greenville, their delivery truck, fondly nicknamed "the Smash Shack," comes in handy.

"The delivery model in Greenville works really well because we can get to almost any location in less than 20 minutes," said Harrison. "We're still working out some of the kinks in Raleigh, but we feel really good with where

things are heading."

Cox and Harrison's regular menu is filled with five classic waffles, as well as a "Waffle of the Week" that changes every few days.

"The Quilted Pig is definitely one of the fan favorites," said Harrison. "Our 'Waffle of the Week' has also been super popular, mostly because it's only available for a few days before we lock it up in our waffle vault."

When Smash Waffles first launched last year, neither of the self-proclaimed waffle fanatics had imagined how popular their creation could become.

"We kind of like the odds being stacked up against us, so we decided to take on the challenge," said Harrison. "What better way than to create something nobody else is doing: waffles. And...voilà, Smash Waffles was born."

Since Cox and Harrison play large roles in both the Greenville and Raleigh branches of Smash Waffles, everyday brings a new schedule.

"For Justin and I, we may be in Greenville making deliveries and interacting with our customers, or it may involve us purchasing building materials and overseeing the construction of our food truck concept, The Smash Shack," Harrison said. "We may be in the Smash Lab coming up with new Waffle of the Week flavors, or we may be spending a couple of days in Raleigh helping that location get to all the names on their VIP waiting list."

Cox and Harrison get especially busy during the holidays. Valentine's Day proved to be a landmark day for the young business.

"Valentine's Day was bonkers. Sadly, we had so many incredible ideas for how we wanted to market Valentine's Day gift orders, #WafflesAndChill, but we weren't able to pursue any of them because our V-Day orders almost completely booked up over a week in advance," said Harrison. "The love notes in each order were so fascinating to read, by the way. Tons of waffle puns...or should we say, a 'waffle' lot of waffle puns."

Ordering Smash Waffles can be done on its website, smashwaffles.com, or by texting "WAFFLES" to 252-231-3323.

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

## Local band to travel the world

**Danielle Schmid**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Recognized by MTV, on Twitter and with five published releases, August is Ours is a local band with fans from countries all over the world.



**J.T. Ackerman**

The group won East Carolina University's Battle of the Bands in 2015 after being a band for only two weeks. Winning gave it the opportunity to open up for MKTO at Barefoot on the Mall.

Since then, it has opened for acts such as One Republic, Smashmouth and many more.

Lead singer J.T. Ackerman has toured North America and parts of Europe and just finished planning another three month American tour where he will perform with other bands such as Happy and Woven in Hiatus.

The day the American tour ends, Ackerman will head back to Europe where he will tour with Netherlands singer, Kira Dekker.

While in Europe, Ackerman will tour as August is Ours solo, especially since he is in the process of changing members of the band. He plans to appear on television, radio shows and will perform in festivals. Ackerman self-manages the band and said planning a three-week tour takes about four months.

"The Netherlands is my favorite country. I don't feel weird being there because I'm Dutch," Ackerman said. He said he has a big following there because of how popular folk music is in the Netherlands.

Their latest single, "Toxic Lips," released Jan. 19 and has over 1,500 streams on Spotify alone and almost 500 views on Youtube.

"This song was going to be a soft song but the drummer from L.A. that we used made it more punk and we went with it," Ackerman said.

"Toxic Lips" was premiered at the ECU Polar Plunge on Jan. 19. Ackerman hopes to promote the song this summer on tour along with his upcoming single "Teach Me How To Smile."

Ackerman hopes to also promote the band in general. He plans to hang flyers and get the name out as much as possible.

"Once people see a name enough they are bound to look it up," said Ackerman. He added that this is a reason why he tours solo.

Ackerman explained how the upcoming album will have more of a punk-pop sound to it while keeping the folk undertone. "I feel like our songs are really different, but my biggest influences would have to be The Killers, Flogging Molly, The Paper Kites, and Mumford and Sons," says Ackerman.

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>> MOVIES AND TV



## F. Gary Gray leaves mark on films

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

**Arvanna Smart**  
TEC STAFF

F. Gary Gray is a fan favorite and household name throughout Hollywood and the African-American community. He wasn't the first African-American male director and he certainly isn't the last, but he did leave his footprint in the community with his award-winning works.



**F. Gary Gray**

Gray was born in 1969 and had his first directorial debut at the age of 24, with the infamous film "Friday."

"Friday" is an urban comedy film about a young man growing up in Compton. The film takes viewers through what it would be like to live in the hood of Compton for 24 hours.

It was a hit among viewers. The movie went on to be nominated for best on-screen duo, best comedic performance and best breakthrough performance.

"I knew what I wanted, I just didn't necessarily have all the experience in the world because I'm 24 years old, putting together my first movie," said Gray, to fastcreate.com.

The next well known film directed by Gray happened to be another box office hit, "Set it Off," released in 1996. This film centered around four underprivileged African-American women who decide to rob a couple banks as a last resort to survive. As the women begin to get greedy, their plans go wrong. The film starred Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett-Smith and Vivica A. Fox, to name a few. Gray won best director at the Acapulco Film Festival and the Special Jury prize at the MTV awards for the film.

He then went on to direct "The

Negotiator." The film starred Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey and Oscar nominee Samuel L. Jackson and earned Gray both Best Film and Best Director awards at the 1998 Acapulco Film Festival. Gray is also known for "The Italian Job," an action-thriller starring Academy Award winner Charlize Theron and Oscar nominee Mark Wahlberg. Gray garnered the Best Director award at the 2004 Black American Film Festival for his work on the film, which surpassed the \$100 million mark in the domestic box office.

"I think that he has made a tremendous footprint in the African-American culture," said Aleah Johnson, senior public health major. "Gray has found a way to successfully demonstrate the truth about African-American culture while making sure other cultures are able to understand where he is coming from."

Not only was Gray a great film director, but he also directed music videos. Directing music videos was how Gray got his start in the field. His first music video was "It was a Good Day" by Ice Cube. He went on to work with artists such as TLC, Tupac, Jay Z, Mary J. Blige, Stevie Wonder and more.

Most recently, Gray has directed more hit films such as "Straight Outta Compton" and the latest "Fast n' Furious" film.

F. Gary Gray may not have been the first African-American male to direct a film or even win an award for it, but he has made an outstanding impact in the entertainment world. He has used his platform to share with the world where he grew up and the struggles of others while also connecting with people of all generations and races.

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

## PLAY REVIEW

## Independence declared at ECU in '1776' production



Andi Li  
TEC STAFF

Have you ever been in a room where straight, white men yell at each other for hours? No? Come to "1776," directed by Robert Caprio, and you can check that off your list.

The iconic musical about the creation of the Declaration of Independence hardly takes a breath in between the lengthy, wordy squabbles over the exact wording of the document. Thankfully, East Carolina University's production features some amazing performances to liven up what could be a dreadfully boring show.

The ensemble story follows John Adams, played by Donald Sutton. Adams is "obnoxious and disliked." Sutton's performance is compelling and true to the spirit of the character, at times shrill and driven, but always passionately devoted to his religion. Benjamin Franklin, Adams' well-spoken and lazy companion, is played by associate professor Gregory Funaro and allows audiences a chuckle in between Adams' fervent quest for independence. Completing the trio of rebels is Thomas Jefferson, played by Colin Yates. Yates expertly portrays the quiet, serious man with grace and depth.

The real star of the show is Josh Williams, who plays Edward Rutledge of South Carolina. Rutledge is technically the secondary antagonist to John Dickinson, but Dillon Smith, who plays Dickinson, hardly makes him interesting enough to hold the audience's attention. Rutledge on



The cast of "1776" portrays a scene about the founding of America. The musical centers around the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

the other hand, is compelling, charming and all together unsettling. Williams commands such attention and respect that just crossing the stage makes a statement.

Supporting the primary characters is a vast ensemble, with a few noteworthy portrayals. Blake West plays Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, who, despite being featured primarily in the first act, still makes for a believably ridiculous character. Micah Simmons plays Dr. Lyman Hall of Georgia. Simmons' portrayal is sweet and good natured, but as Hall is often put on the "wrong" side of the argument. Samantha Dempsey plays one of three female roles, the protagonist's spouse, Abigail Adams, and, despite some repetitive choreography (how many times can a woman ardently press her hand against her bosom?), Dempsey is charming and loveable.

Although most of "1776's" problems come from the material itself, the production has a few flaws. During "Is Anybody There?" sentimentality cannot be

held at bay as fireworks and the American flag are lit up on stage. While some patriotism is certainly called for, it seemed the audience was only moments away before Adams yelled, "God bless the troops," and Ronald Reagan began kissing babies. It would've been nice to see a costume change, but with the cast size, it's understandable why each character was relegated to one outfit for a three month story.

There are only two problems that exist in the show that are not about cultural perspective. One is the inclusion of the song "Momma, Look Sharp." Despite boasting the best vocal performance of the entire show, courtesy of Drew Wells, the song is completely unnecessary and does nothing to serve the story. The other problem is simply the speed of the scenes. Some of the lengthy debates, specifically between Adams and Dickinson, take much longer than necessary and do nothing to hold audience attention.

All other problems come from a greater historical understanding that time has

afforded us in 2017. It's uncomfortable to see someone like Thomas Jefferson being praised as an abolitionist, now that his rapes of Sally Hemings are clear. Despite having excellent rhetoric delivered by Rutledge about the hypocrisy of the northern states, which could easily be applied to many white allies of the Black Lives Matter movement, the show uncomfortably seems to justify the owning of slaves and the maintenance of the institution of slavery as a "We'll get them next time" problem.

All in all, ECU has shown its full strength in "1776." It is passionate, it is elegant, it is witty, and it is excellent theatre.

## RATING:



4 out of 5

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

## AUGUST

continued from A4

While on tour last summer, August is Ours had a concert in Atlanta, Georgia planned. When it arrived at the venue, it was told no one was aware of its show. Instead of its concert there was a show with rappers and other hip hop artists going on that night.

Instead of leaving, August is Ours played a few songs at the show and found out later that the show was aired on live radio in Los Angeles.

"It was completely unexpected,"

Ackerman said. "But we were exposed to a couple executive producers so we were okay with it."

August is Ours will headline a festival in Greenville over spring break with other North Carolina and South Carolina bands. The festival will be hosted by Where U Party.

## Exclusive Song Online

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

## FASHION

continued from A4

thinking about the moment she walked on stage.

"I kept thinking to myself, 'Don't you dare fall, Lindsay,'" said Grimmitt. "Not to mention, my heels were a size too small and the runway floors were really slick. But afterwards I was like, 'I want to do it again.'"

According to Grimmitt, she was instructed to walk slowly and off-beat. Since the music was fast, she found it hard not to match her walk to the tempo. In addition, models were taught to walk down the runway, pose for three seconds, pose again for another three seconds and then walk back up the runway for

the third and final pose.

"These models, who were professionals by the way, were given a practice run earlier that day," said Grimmitt. "I only had a few minutes to get dressed and learn how to walk before showtime, it was crazy."

Grimmitt said what helped her stay calm was the overwhelming amount of support from some of her ECU peers backstage.

"I feel like most girls would be kinda jealous that I got asked," said Grimmitt. "But everyone backstage was so helpful and so kind. I think that says a lot about ECU and the students that go here."

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# Black History Month Celebration

featuring **Bree Newsome**

**February 23, 2017  
7:00pm  
Wright Auditorium**

**A Premier Wellness Passport Event**

A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Bree is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, composer, singer, community organizer and activist who removed the Confederate battle flag from the South Carolina State House.

Presented by:  
**Student Activities Board  
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center  
C.U.L.T.U.R.E. Programming Board  
Campus Living Social Justice Education Team  
Off-Campus Student Services  
Black Student Union**

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event.

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# HANNAH BRENCHER

Writer, TED Speaker, and "More Love Letters" Founder

**February 27, 2017**

Letter Writing Workshop  
4:00-5:00pm  
MSC 244

Hannah Will Speak  
7:00-8:00pm  
Hendrix Theater



## HOUSES FOR RENT:

**WALK TO CLASS – 1 BLOCK 2 bed/1.5bath quadplex.** “Buccaneer Village” 507 E. 11th St. Save money, no ECU parking fees to pay, kitchen appliances and dishwasher. \$600.00/month. Pinnacle Mgmt. 561-RENT(7368). PRELEASING NOW for Fall 2017.

ECU Student Duplexes on Bus Route or walk to class! Duplexes at Wyndham Circle, 2 Bedroom, 2 Full Bath, Newly Decorated, Cathedral Ceilings, Great Landlord, Great Price, Big Back Yard, Good Parking, Some Pets OK. Patios for Grilling. Available May 1, June 1, July 1, August 1, 2017. \$620.00 per month. 252.756.3009 or text 252.341.9789.

3 bed 3 bath spacious condo @ 320 Brownlea Dr. PRE-LEASING NOW for Fall 2017. You choose your rent amount. \$700.00/month includes H2O. \$1195.00/month gets you W/D, cable, internet, utilities and H2O. On ECU bus route or walk to class, bring your own roommates, we do not match. Pinnacle Mgmt. 561-RENT(7368)

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Brookridge Apartments newly remodeled- 2 bedroom 1 bath. \$595 per month. Located on East 10th Street, 10 blocks from ECU. Stainless appliances, granite countertops and plank vinyl flooring. Wainright Property Management 252-756-6209

## HELP WANTED:

Greenville Recreation & Parks has part-time tennis instructor openings for March and beyond. Contact Chris Hinson at 252-329-4559 or chinson@greenvillenc.gov or apply at greenvillenc.gov.

Treybrooke Apartments: Accepting applications for a part-time leasing consultant position! We are looking for someone who is energetic and enjoys working with people. Must be available on weekends and throughout the summer. Please stop by our office to pick up an application. We look forward to meeting you!

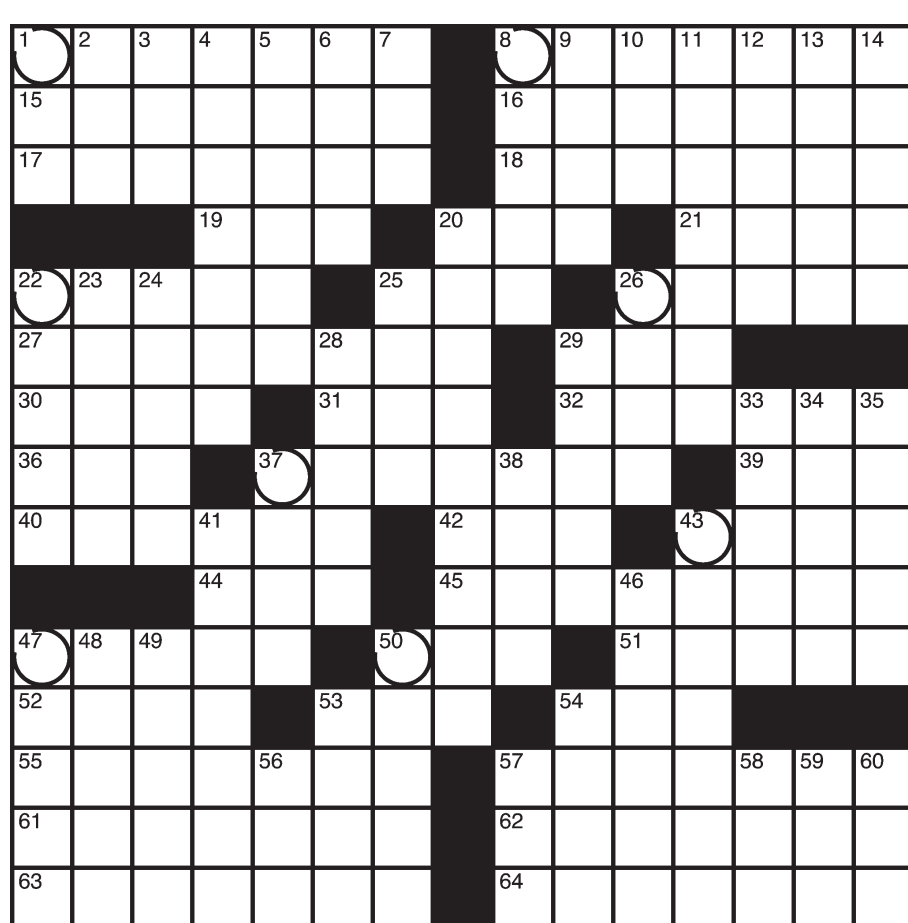
## OTHER:

G3ektacular Super Saturday! 3/4, 10a-4p. Kick off Spring Break with comics, collectibles, pop artwork & more! Lots of vendors! Greenville Masonic Temple, 1104 Charles Street. P: 565-2352; FB: G3eks.

## PUZZLES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Oldest U.S. capital
  - 8 Spade creator
  - 15 Melodic movements
  - 16 Ancient region now part of France
  - 17 Is serious
  - 18 Impulse conductors
  - 19 Much toothpaste
  - 20 U.S. neighbor
  - 21 “Picnic” dramatist
  - 22 Letter between November and Papa
  - 25 Singer’s warm-up syllables
  - 26 Indy-winning family name
  - 27 Swears by
  - 29 66, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 30 Metaphor for jobs
  - 31 Lav, in London
  - 32 Singer Kitt
  - 36 “... \_\_\_ quit!”
  - 37 Kind of bath
  - 39 “Just like that!”
  - 40 Sign-off words
  - 42 Director Lupino
  - 43 Corny state?
  - 44 MSN, for one
  - 45 “I’m good”
  - 47 Jazzy Jones
  - 50 Miracle Mets manager Hodges
  - 51 Frozen fruit-flavored drinks
  - 52 Slanted piece
  - 53 Sounds at spas
  - 54 2017 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee
  - 55 Enchant
  - 57 Blog comment format usually interpreted as the word spelled by eight aptly circled puzzle letters
  - 61 Norse explorer
  - 62 Daughter of Agamemnon
  - 63 End of a baseball game, usually
  - 64 Like siblings

- DOWN**
- 1 \_\_\_ Adams
  - 2 “Who \_\_\_ you kidding?”
  - 3 Actress Vardalos
  - 4 Polynesian archipelago natives
  - 5 State as fact
  - 6 Impede, as a plot
  - 7 Guinness suffix
  - 8 \_\_\_ Her Way
  - 9 “A Clockwork Orange” narrator
  - 10 2015 Big Ten champs: Abbr.
  - 11 Siren’s victim
  - 12 Waist-length jackets
  - 13 Faint trace
  - 14 Trademarked weapon
  - 20 One-piece beachwear
  - 22 Former #1 golfer Lorena who hosts an annual Guadalajara LPGA event
  - 23 Heads up
  - 24 Adorable one
  - 25 Screen \_\_\_
  - 26 Four Corners state
  - 28 Openly enjoy, as soup
  - 29 Convened again
  - 33 Rib eye alternative
  - 34 Ethan of “Boyhood”



## Tday's Puzzle Solved

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

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2/23/17

- 35 Gather up
- 37 John who composed the “NBA on NBC” theme song
- 38 Much-followed star
- 41 Gorge crosser
- 43 Former Chrysler head
- 46 Early Jewish scholar
- 47 116-year-old prize
- 48 Philip Glass’ “Einstein on the Beach,” e.g.
- 49 Kelly’s ex-partner
- 50 Belgian treaty city
- 53 Jesus of baseball
- 54 She, in Cherbourg
- 56 Bar opening?
- 57 \_\_\_ Lingus
- 58 DIRECTV parent
- 59 Ante- kin
- 60 Bummed out

## COMIC



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## Late spark lifts Pirates past Hens

Daniel Roberts  
TEC STAFF

On Saturday, the East Carolina men's tennis team improved its record to 9-1 overall after getting victories against Delaware Blue Hens and the Temple.

After losing their first match to the Richmond Spiders and defeating Appalachian State at home, the Pirates went on the road to try and continue their dominant play. Saturday, the Pirates came off a tough match against the Owls and it seemed the Blue Hens would have the advantage on energy but it was the exact opposite.

In the doubles match, ECU's Javier Renones and Will Bissett dominated their matchup and won 6-0 while the other matches were somewhat closer. Freddie McGeehan and Kasey Countee won 6-3, while James Ling and Ronny Georgi won 6-4 to give ECU the 1-0 lead.



James Ling

McGeehan had to win in a tiebreaker in the first set of his singles match 7-6. In the second set, he had more momentum and control to win 6-3 to put ECU up 2-0. Georgi did not have problems in his match as he won both sets 6-4, 6-2.

Vlad Anghel did not have any problems as well as he won his match in two sets 6-2, 6-1. Since ECU already earned the victory, it didn't matter what happened after that. Lehfeldt dominated his competition to win both of his sets, 6-0.

Ling did not struggle in the first set as he won 6-1. The second set was tougher to finish, but he pushed himself to win the second set in a tiebreaker 7-6 (3-0).

"We have to keep working on what to do next Friday and how can we get better this week to go and let the emotions help us play well," Heinchon said. "So far, we have played really good tennis on the road and we want to keep doing that."

On Friday, the Pirates traveled to take on the Owls where it was a nailbiter. In the doubles matches, McGeehan and Countee could not get into the match and fell, 6-3. Anghel and Lehfeldt won their doubles match 6-3. Ling and Georgi had a tough test but got outwitted and lost 6-4.

After falling in the doubles match, McGeehan struggled and lost the first set 6-2. In the second set, McGeehan battled to stay in his match and won in a tiebreaker 7-6 (8). In the third set, McGeehan played strong and won 6-0 to tie the match up at 1-1 overall.

Georgi and Lehfeldt struggled in their matches and fell to their opponents. Georgi fought hard but lost both of his sets 6-4, 6-3. Lehfeldt won the first set 7-5, but ended up losing the other two, 6-4 each. With the Owls up 3-2, Countee and Ling had to win their matches to give ECU the victory.

Countee won the first set of his match, 6-3. In the second set, his opponent fought to stay in the match and won 7-6 (9). Countee had to battle in the third set but he came out on top to tie the match at three. Ling had all eyes on him as he played to move ECU's record to 8-1. Ling won the first set 6-3, and carried that intensity into the second set to give ECU its eighth victory with a 6-3 win.

"It is always a little harder to play in clubs and facilities that you haven't seen before," Heinchon said. "Some people had the advantage on us that we have had for most of January and February."

The ECU will be on the road again as it will travel to take on Campbell Friday and Georgia Southern Monday.

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## Letting the 'dog' loose

### Barkley's scrappy play leads Pirates on court

Chase Carroll  
TEC STAFF

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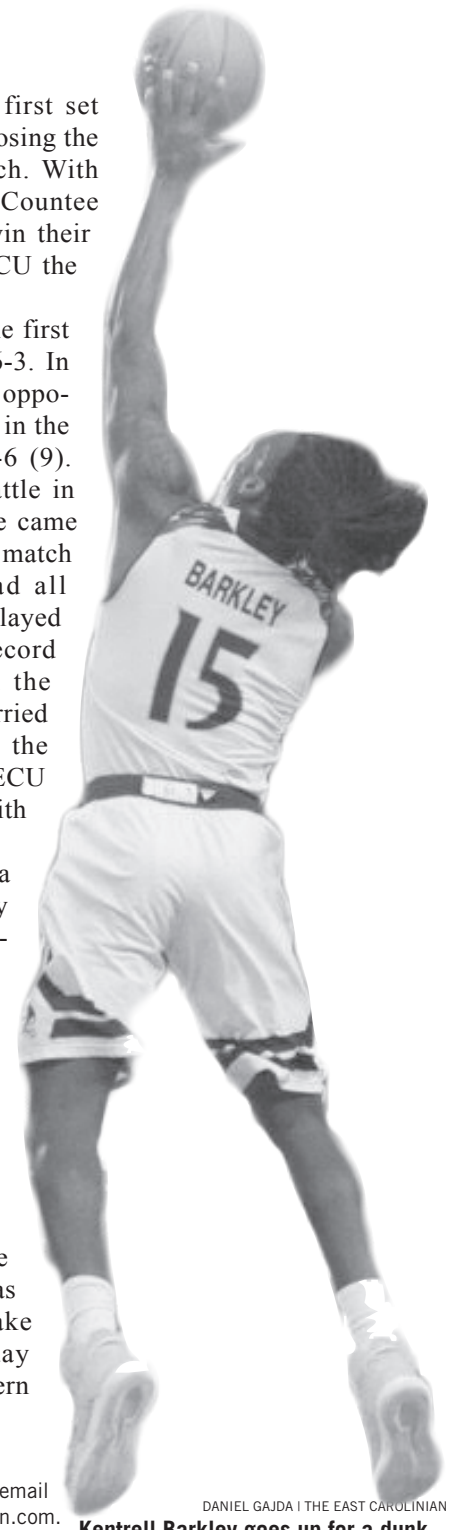
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DANIEL GAJDA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN  
Kentrell Barkley goes up for a dunk.

## ECU wins on Senior Night

Sean Finnerty  
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina women's basketball snapped a 12-game losing streak on Senior Night, as the seniors fittingly led the way in a 80-69 home victory against Cincinnati Wednesday evening in the final home game of the season.

"Really good team win, Senior Night, obviously high emotions," said ECU head coach Heather Macy. "Our seniors performed as you would expect they would."

The four seniors for ECU (11-17, 2-13 American Athletic Conference) were the team's high scorers. Forwards Bre McDonald and Kristen Gaffney both had double-doubles, as McDonald poured in 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and Gaffney scored 20 points and snatched 11 boards. Guard Khadija Toure had 14 points and four assists while guard Antoinette Banister chipped in with nine points.

"It's just really special when you see the four seniors come together for a greater good," Gaffney said. "The atmosphere tonight was very special to us, and I think when you have good vibes and positive energy a lot of things can happen for us."

Seemingly determined to get a win for the seniors on their special night, the Pirates came flying out of the gates to start the game. Using good ball movement and energetic defense, they jumped out to a 12-2 lead within the first five minutes. Toure sparked the game-opening run with six points, which came off a corner 3 and a made free



DANIEL GAJDA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN  
East Carolina point guard Alex Frazier attempts to dribble past two defenders during Wednesday's win.

throw after being fouled while sinking a layup.

However, ECU's adrenaline wore off and Cincinnati (16-11, 7-7 AAC) pulled itself back into the game with a 13-5 run, making the score 17-15 with 56 seconds left in the opening quarter. Senior guard Bianca Quisenberry led the charge for the Bearcats, scoring seven of her team's points during the run. McDonald then capped the opening quarter with a 3-pointer to push the Pirates' lead to 20-15.

The intensity of the second quarter matched the first, as ECU and Cincinnati traded the lead four times in the second alone. The Bearcats came out on a 7-0 run to take

a 22-20 lead, but the Pirates fired back with a 6-0 run of their own. Cincinnati pulled ahead to a 36-32 lead with 2:22 remaining, and seemed to be taking control of the game. But ECU ended the opening half on a tear, scoring nine unanswered points in the final 1:55. Toure completed the run with a layup as the buzzer sounded to give the Pirates a 41-36 lead at the halftime interval.

After a tightly contested first half, a strong shooting performance saw ECU grab control of the game in the third quarter. The Pirates built a 68-49 lead by the end of the third, after going 11-for-18 from the field (61.1 percent) and scoring 27 points in the

quarter. McDonald was the largest contributor, scoring 13 points in the third period. Cincinnati helped ECU build its lead by only making three of their 13 field goal attempts (23.1 percent) in the quarter.

Due to ECU's large lead, the fourth quarter was rather relaxed. Cincinnati managed to cut the deficit to eight points at one point, but it was too little, way too late.

"Last time playing in Minges Coliseum, not the last time playing for their careers," Macy said. "We'll work like crazy over the next week or so to extend their careers."

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





East Carolina runner Hakeem Horton jumps over a hurdle during an event earlier this season.

# Track & Field ready for AAC opponents

Robbie Milton III  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina track and field looks to finish its indoor season on a high note at the American Athletic Conference Championships this weekend at the Birmingham CrossPlex in Alabama.

The Pirates have had four meets prior to the conference championships up and down the east coast and have used them, along with the offseason, to prepare themselves for the final meet of the indoor season in hopes of bringing back an American Athletic Conference championship to Greenville.

“They have to believe in their training, their coaches and most importantly themselves,” head coach Curt Kraft said.

Throughout this indoor season, several Pirates have stood out among the different events and have landed themselves a good seed for the weekend. Headed into championship weekend, the Pirates have 29 competitors placed in the top 10 for the different events on both the men’s and women’s sides.

The men had 16 top-10 ranked athletes in different disciplines and the women’s side had 13, while several other athletes stand just outside those rankings for the Pirates.

“It is a matter of who steps up more,” Kraft said. “We have to control what we can and improve upon what we can best.”

Kraft has been proud of the accomplishments that his group has made this season, especially after losing record-breaking high-jumper Avion Jones after the 2015-16 season.

He has been consistent and confident in the team’s work ethic and structure throughout and believes his coaching staff has done the best it can to prepare the team for the high stakes this weekend.

Kraft hopes to send the seniors out in a positive fashion for their last indoor conference championship. He also expects the seniors to step up with their leadership and experience as these individuals have laid the foundation for their younger teammates.

“The emotions of the seniors’ last chance to compete in the indoor conference championship (is an) emotional ride they are on (and it) will give them an edge,” Kraft said. “We honor them and we dedicate this meet to them. We appreciate what they have done for us.”

Along with the seniors who have prior experience in competing for conference championships, the track and field team is going to look to its captains to step up, as captains Grace Sullivan, Adam Manns and Vincent Ragland lead the charge.

Overall, Kraft is hoping to see improvement across the different disciplines. The team has been improving throughout the season and has to keep doing so, according to Kraft.

“I think across the board people will step it up,” Kraft said. “I don’t think that there will necessarily be one group or individual to really stand out amongst everyone.”

To contact this writer, email [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Bill targets injuries

Staff Report

Pitt County Republican Representative Greg Murphy is sponsoring a new sports bill that would allow parents of youth athletes who leave a sporting event due to injury the right to insert them back into the field of play, regardless of the final word from an athletic trainer.

House Bill 116 is a new bill that would provide clinics, information sessions, training and education to parents and coaches that would help them make a valid analysis on whether the injury suffered by their child is serious enough to keep them out of the event. This bill takes away from the prolonged concussion protocol that is used throughout all levels of play that normally keeps the athlete out for the remainder of the match, allowing the parents to skip the protocol and return their child to the game.

This bill also focuses on two other major areas of concern for injured athletes: sudden

cardiac arrest and heat-related illnesses.

“Given the severity and lethality of cardiac arrest and heat-related illness during our school’s athletic activities, I feel it imperative that legislature look for any possible opportunity to help educate those involved in how to prevent or recognize these events when they happen,” Murphy said.

Giving this power to parents could concern, as they have a say over professionals on whether the injury their child suffered is severe enough to keep them sidelined. A parent could potentially put aside serious injury to see their child succeed, and that alone can blur the lines of what’s right and what they, or the family, personally want. Down that path, if the child does return after suffering a serious injury, worse or even life-threatening complications could arise.

For questions or comments, contact [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

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