



VOLUME 93, ISSUE 29

MONTGOMERY OPTIMISTIC AFTER PURPLE-GOLD GAME

Turn to A8



Tuesday, 4.25.17

The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE

ECU preps for finals Counseling center offers stress relief tips

Alanna Joyner
TEC STAFF

Under mounting pressure, the stress leading up to exams is a necessary evil that brings students one step closer to the end of the academic year.

Stress, according to The American Institute of Stress, is a physical, mental or emotional strain or tension.

"As college students there are a lot of factors that can create stress, class work, relationships with friends or loved ones, balancing a job and dealing with pressure from parents," said Gabriel Beattie-Sergio, a public health studies major and East Carolina University Campus Recreation & Wellness Center intern.

Last week, Beattie-Sergio created the passport event "Play More, Stress Less." The day is dedicated to educating students on the side effects of being under the pressures of college life and help de-stress students for finals.

"The overall reaction I received from students was that they enjoyed the event. Many thought it was a fun way to take a mental break from their day," said Beattie-Sergio. "I know how the end of semester pressures can create all sorts of stress so I thought an event like this would be a good way for students to take their mind off of finals if only for 10 minutes."

Departments and organizations such as the ECU Center for Counseling and Student Development (CCSD) came out to inform students about

> **STRESS** page A3



COURTESY OF ECU.EDU

Students at ECU celebrate after graduating. UNC system President Margaret Spellings will speak at this year's commencement.

GRADUATION 2017

Spellings to speak at commencement

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

The 2017 senior class will take its final steps as students at East Carolina University on May 5 before entering the next stage of each graduate's life.

The 2017 Commencement Ceremony will take place Friday, May 5 at 9 a.m. in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium with the various schools and colleges holding recognition ceremonies for their graduates on May 5 or Sat. May 6.

University of North Carolina system President Margaret Spellings is set to offer words of wisdom to the graduating class during the commencement address at the Spring Commencement.

Spellings was named president of the 17 campus UNC system in March of 2016.

"President Spellings is one of America's great education leaders. Her advocacy for our university and commitment to the success of our

students is admirable and we hope it will encourage students as they prepare for their careers or further education. I am honored she will speak at our commencement ceremony this spring," said ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton in a recent press release.

Spellings, in partnership with the UNC Board of Governors, recently launched a new planning process to help both the state and students. The goal is to make North Carolina a nationally recognized leader in affordability, accessibility, student success, economic impact and excellent and diverse institution according to the press release.

As a member of the graduating class of 2017 and a finance major at ECU, Chad Hesketh said he is looking forward to hearing what Spellings will share during her speech at ECU.

"I am excited to listen to what she has to say about the changing college

environment in North Carolina and also hope to hear about the recent increase in education expense which have led to higher tuition costs at public universities," said Hesketh.

Spellings is a graduate of the University of Houston and received an honorary doctorate and Distinguished Alumna Award from the university in 2006.

According to the press release, Spellings accomplishments include receiving an honorary doctorate from the University of Houston and serving as a senior advisor for then-Texas Gov., George W. Bush.

From 2005 to 2009, Spellings served as U.S. Secretary of Education and was the nation's senior policy official on every aspect of education including primary, secondary and postsecondary

> **GRADUATION** page A3

Rock the Arts benefit to host young local musicians

Lauren Sura
TEC STAFF

Greenville will be rocking this Saturday night as Rock the Arts second annual benefit concert hopes to entertain the city and raise funds for the arts.

Rock the Arts is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for young people in Pitt County by making the arts programs accessible to underprivileged youth.

This year's concert will again take place at Tiebreakers at 1920 Smythewyck Dr. and tickets for the event, which starts at 6 p.m. are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

The program embraces children ages eight to 18 who have been referred through the court system or by art teachers, making it a safe place where the students can create anything from music to graphic design to murals in the community, work on team building and build mentorships and friendships.

The idea came up for the benefit concert about a year and a half ago by creator



COURTESY OF NO PROOF

The band No Proof performs. Young musicians, as well as No Proof will perform at Rock the Arts.

Michele Marston.

"I noticed we were doing some outreach programs and that there were some kids who had really good talent but didn't really have an outlet for it," Marston said. "So, I started a small Facebook group and I reached out to a few musician friends

from around the music scene... and before I knew it I secured the venue and I had acts backing me."

Though she faced skepticism at first, Marston persevered and gained support for the cause.

The first Rock the Arts benefit concert

took place last May at Tiebreakers Sports Bar and Grill.

The event was a considered a success, raising \$5,600 in one night.

With the organization's growing platform, Marston applied for full nonprofit status and elected a board to help her organize future events.

"I knew I couldn't do it all by myself, so they've been amazing and a big help," Marston said.

The organization previously hosted an evening with former professional football player Brad Benson, raising \$292 in donations, and participated at PirateFest doing community art projects on a banner with kids and their parents which will be displayed at the concert.

"I've been asked by several other local musicians that would be willing to donate a cover and I think this is something we're talking about to see how we can continue

> **ROCK** page A3

ONLINE

» **COLUMN:** ECU baseball proves things don't always go as planned

» **ECU** holds annual Relay for Life on main campus for the first time

SOCIAL MEDIA



@theeastcarolinian



Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian



@TEC_Newspaper

1218 Mumford Road. Greenville, NC 27834

Home cooked Texas-Style cuisine in gut-busting Texas size portions!



10% Discount for ECU & Pitt CC students, faculty, and staff with ID!

(252) 689-6217 www.mrtimtcf.com

BRIEFS

GPD warns residents following rabies spike

The Greenville Police Department is warning residents around the city to be vigilant for wild animals who are displaying symptoms of rabies. The department told Greenville residents about the danger after 14 animals suspected of having rabies were euthanized by Greenville Animal Protective Services since April 1, according to GPD.

GPD said residents should never approach a wild animal, should vaccinate their pets against the disease and contact the Animal Protective Services unit if they spot potentially sick animals.

If a pet is bitten by an animal with symptoms of rabies GPD advises owners to take precautions such as wearing gloves to avoid direct contact with the disease.

Widow of best-selling author to visit Brody Medical

East Carolina University will host Dr. Lucy Kalanithi to speak about end-of-life care in honor of National Healthcare Decisions Day. Kalanithi is an internist and faculty member at the Stanford School of Medicine.

Kalanithi was married to the late Dr. Paul Kalanithi who was a chief neurosurgical resident at Stanford University. At the age of 36 he was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer and spent the last two years of his life writing a book about life and death. The book, titled *When Breath Becomes Air* went on to become a New York Times best-seller.

The discussion will be held today at the Brody School of Medicine from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

NAACP fights for Sharpe

Cayla Rodney
TEC STAFF

The Pitt County NAACP has recently started raising awareness to the surrounding community about Dontae Sharpe, a man who the group believes was wrongly convicted of murder 22 years ago in Greenville.

In July of 1995, the State court convicted Sharpe of first-degree murder of George Radcliffe, which resulted in a sentence of life-imprisonment. Throughout the case and during his last 22 years in prison, Sharpe has plead not guilty to the charge. By doing so he has refused any plea deals, which could have had him released from prison.

"I think it's vital we have the support of our students on campus, not only at ECU, but if we could get support of students on campuses across the state," said Calvin Henderson, president of the Pitt County branch of the NAACP. "Student movements have played a very important part in issues throughout the years... because these are our leaders of tomorrow and the young people have a strong voice and send a strong message."

The North Carolina NAACP has partnered with Color of Change in an effort to get its members to sign a petition that is addressed to Governor Roy Cooper, Attorney General Josh Stein and Pitt County District Attorney Kimberly Robb.

When a supporter signs the petition they send the message to these North Carolina leaders that in part states, "We look forward to discussing this case further and gaining your support in this fight for justice. We are ready to celebrate together when these wrongs are made right and North Carolina may be seen as a model of integrity in our Justice system."

The President of the North Carolina NAACP Rev. William Barber II released a statement that said, "He (Sharpe) has now spent 22 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit. Dontae has spent decades behind bars despite a complete lack of evidence against him, recanted witness testimony and mounting evidence of misconduct by police and prosecutors in Greenville, North Carolina."

According to Henderson, in addition to the NAACP's complaint about unreliable evidence, the NAACP also disagree with the



Dontae Sharpe poses with his aunt and mother. Pitt County NAACP is fighting to overturn his conviction

state court's process in ruling.

"Here in this case when it was sent back to the state (from the federal), the state ruled against what the federal (court) said," according to Henderson. "As far as the federal (court) is concerned the young man should have long been set free."

During the time of conviction, Clark Everett was the district attorney and Henderson said that Everett refused to review the case as a last act before retirement. This has led the NAACP to attempt contacting the present District Attorney Robb.

"Kimberly Robb has refused to reverse course," said Henderson. "And this action of the Pitt County District Attorney has convinced us that Robb has lost her way and has focused on avoiding accountability for such an injustice against this young man."

When questioned about the case, Attorney General Stein's communications director, Laura Brewer, said, "This case is not currently in litigation, so our office does not presently have an active role."

As Stein has become aware of the petition, Brewer said, "any request by Mr. Sharpe for commutation would go to the Governor.

That said, our office is reviewing the case."

This campaign is one of many the NAACP has begun to address its grievances with the justice system, according to Barber.

"There is a long history of Black people enduring the pain of being mistreated by the judicial system," said Barber.

Henderson explained the process that the NAACP followed to confront these topics.

"We call it the NAACP talking truth to power and I think the truth is we are living in a system, especially in our justice system, where a man is judged by the color of his skin instead of whether he is guilty or not," said Henderson.

Barber said the NAACP will continue this campaign and get the attention of leaders in North Carolina "until justice is real."

"Yes, we want Dontae Sharpe out. He should be free. But (it's) not only Dontae, this is about looking at the whole corrupt system that our justice system has become," said Henderson. "Very unfair and we will not stop."

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

Sexual assault application available for ECU students

Jessica Merklein
TEC STAFF

Today, One-in-four women and one-in-16 men will fall victim of sexual assault at one point in their college careers, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. This shocking statistic alone was enough to motivate a group of friends to dedicate their lives to helping victims of sexual assault.

Astonished by these statistics, three lifelong friends founded an app that "seeks to empower student survivors of sexual misconduct" with the hope that it will provide support to those who feel they have nowhere else to turn according to their website.

Jack Zandi, Racquel Giner and Billy Sadik-Khan founded a company called Cappivation in the suburban town in Chappaqua, New York.

"The fact that one-in-four college women could expect to be sexually assaulted by the time they graduated astonished us," said Zandi. "We identified an opportunity to provide technologically innovative solutions that would help people who have experienced some form as sexual misconduct."

The company launched a smartphone app called Reach Out, Zandi and his team have the ultimate goal of creating safer college campuses throughout the world, including East Carolina University.

"I think this will be a great resource for ECU's campus and campuses across the country," said sophomore business major, Zac Gallo. "I have had friends and acquaintances that have been affected by sexual assault, and it makes me happy that they now have a way to not feel so lost."

To find ECU's homepage on Reach Out, Zandi said simply search for ECU and choose from one of the 11 options depending on what resource you are searching for.

"The last thing a survivor needs is to struggle to find crucial information at a critical, time-sensitive period," said Zandi.

Zandi and his team have combed through over 2,500 university's sexual misconduct policies, campus resources, reporting options and gathered them all into one organized and easy-to-navigate app.

"We've designed the app to be as relatable and accommodative for college students as possible by ensuring that users are anonymous, the information is campus-specific and it's free," said Zandi.

Reach Out Editions can be downloaded in either the iOS App Store or Google Play Store.

With options such as Campus Resources, Prevention/Education and Advocacy/Support, Reach Out has all the bases covered when it comes to ECU's sexual misconduct protocol said Zandi.

Reach Out also allows counselors access to customize their university's homepage to best fit their school's needs, making it easy to update if the policies were ever to change.

Zandi and his team believe that if they can eliminate the inconveniences a survivor would normally have to deal with, then there is a much higher likelihood that they will get the help they need.

"If survivors are able to access the information they need, then there is a greater chance that the perpetrator(s) will be caught, and then there is a lower chance that another potential victim will be assaulted," said Zandi.

Reach Out also makes it simple to navigate between schools. If there was a friend of a victim who wishes to become knowledgeable about or compare a certain university's policy, finding it would not be an issue according to Zandi.

"A lot of survivors experience assault in their early years of college and don't have a lot of people to turn to, so this feature allows friends and family to be able to help you from far away," said Zandi.

Zandi believes that if Cappivation and the Reach Out app can help and reduce the number of people feeling lost on how to handle sexual misconduct, then it is a worthwhile goal.

"With Sexual Assault Awareness Month upon us, there will be a lot of upcoming opportunities to promote awareness about this important issue, with the goal of creating a safer campus community at East Carolina University," said Zandi.

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

USE PROMO CODE **HOOK** AND WE'LL WAIVE YOUR ADMIN FEES. THAT'S A **SAVINGS OF \$200!**



STUDENT APARTMENTS IN PIRATE COUNTRY

The Davis offers ECU Pirates a place to call home that's close to campus and full of amenities and features that go **beyond the norm** for student housing. With **top-of-the-line community features** like a **24-hour clubhouse** with billiards and a coffee bar, and outdoor amenities like **sport courts and barbecue grills**. The Davis has everything students need to build a community during their college years. A **24-hour business center** gives students a place to collaborate, study in peace, or finish up projects.



THE PERFECT PLACE FOR ECU PIRATES TO LAND

Pirates Place is the perfect place for East Carolina University Pirates to drop their anchors and claim their home. Pirate pride runs deep at Pirates Place, and expectations are high for a **quality living experience** beyond typical student housing. Our townhome community has **state-of-the-art features and amenities** like modern interior designs, a **multimedia area** with gaming systems, and an **upgraded 24-hour fitness center**. Located **just down the road** from the ECU campus, Pirates can quickly get to class or Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.



3535 E. 10TH ST., GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 758-5551 | LIVETHEDAVIS.COM

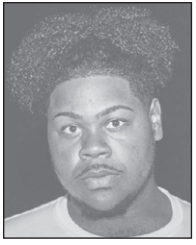
1526 S. CHARLES BLVD., GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 321-7613 | PIRATESPLACETOWNHOMES.COM

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

ECU Circle K elects new president

Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

Known to many for his grandiose personality and extracurricular work on campus, one student at East Carolina University has attained a position that takes his strides toward community outreach to the next level.



Geoffrey Whitley

Ambassador and an elected Student Government Association representative for ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication in the 2017-18 school year.

Adding on to his resume of extracurricular work is his position as East Caro-

lina's chapter president for The Carolina's District of Circle K. Taking to social media to announce his new role on campus, Whitley expressed his "overwhelming gratitude" for being selected to this position. Whitley said he was "honored" to be given a role to serve and lead in such an internationally recognized organization.

"I look forward to making ECU's chapter of Circle K even better than it was before," said Whitley. "I'm so ready to see the diverse men and women of East Carolina University getting involved in service projects not only on campus, but beyond."

Circle K International is a Kiwanis affiliated premier collegiate and university organization founded on the basis of community service, leadership development and friendship growth according to their website. A self-governing organization, CKI elects its own officers, conducts its own meetings and determines its own service activities.

CKI blends community service projects and leadership training with various opportunities to interact with other college students around the globe for the "purpose of making a difference in the world," as emphasized on Circle K International's mission statement.

The service and leadership organization has over 13,770 members in 17 nations around the world, and Whitley said he aims to grow membership of ECU's chapter of Circle K during his presidency.

"Students should get involved with Circle K because it provides plenty of service opportunities and gives students the chance to travel and make a difference not just in school, but around the world," said Whitley. "It's also a big networking organization where you can meet people with offers for internships and jobs. I've met many who have helped and provided me with opportunities in my educational endeavors," said Whitley.

Whitley's experience with Kiwanis dates back to his time in high school, where he was the Lt. Gov. of his high school's Key Club, which is a Kiwanis International high school service program. Wanting to continue his work in the organization, he said he continued his membership by joining his local Circle K and worked his way up into the Lt. Gov. position as well.

"I'm ecstatic but nervous to be the president of such a recognizable organization. I've been involved in service organizations before, but I've never held the position as president," said Whitley. "I'm usually not the frontman when it comes to things like this, but it's exciting and intimidating. Knowing what I know along with my experience in this organization, I think I can and will help build the ECU chapter of Circle K."

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

STRESS

continued from A1

how strong friendships and support can help with emotional stress.

"Many students believe they are the only ones who become overwhelmed to the point they feel they can no longer manage their demands, causing them to keep it to themselves, and not seek help," said Maya Pittman, staff counselor and Interim Outreach Coordinator at the ECU CCSD. "This couldn't be further from the truth and the statistic should steer us away from the stigma of seeking counseling..It is a very shared experience amongst college students, this doesn't mean it can't be an issue to be addressed."

Pittman said acute stress occurs at a very short period of time, and can lead to emotional symptoms such as nervousness, short periods of sadness, headache or shortness of breath.

Episodic stress occurs when an individual takes on too much that it seems they are perpetually in the clutches of acute stress. While, chronic stress is brought



ANNAH SCHWARTZ | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A student at East Carolina University stresses out as she prepares for upcoming semester finals on by long-term exposure to major life stressors such as relationship conflict or chronic illnesses.

For reducing stress, Pittman said self-care is at the top of the list.

"Self-care is a great place to start... besides eating balanced meals, getting good amounts of sleep, we have to discover what allows us to decompress, relax, and release the tensions of the day," said

in the first place."

Both Beattie-Sergio and Pittman also recommend students to use the several resources on campus, such as the ECU Wellness Center's stress free zone program. Every Wednesday night, the wellness center offers a space where students can relax with massage chairs, color and be within a peaceful environment.

The ECU CCSD offers free individual or group counseling, consultations and workshops that focus on stress management. Walk-in hours are from 11 a.m to 4 p.m, Monday through Fridays for students to utilize in Umstead Hall.

The ECU CCSD is also offering Mindfulness Drop-In Sessions from May 1 to the 3rd for students to come in between 2 p.m to 3 p.m for mindfulness meditation and to relax during exam week.

"Sometimes, we face phases of life that ultimately produce feelings of stress, and that's completely normal," Pittman said. "However, we can learn how to utilize stress as fuel, rather than allow it to determine our defeat."

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

ROCK

continued from A1

doing it and keep it going throughout the year if we wanted to add a second benefit night and do something just as large," Marston said.

The event will begin with a children's program that will host the Youth Public Arts Program music program, which will showcase an African drum circle instruction lesson, followed by performances from young local musicians.

The children's programs are free to the public.

Children will then be able to eat free at Tiebreakers from 6 to 7 p.m., while the

venue will donate 10 percent of the rest of the food profits to the cause.

The main event will begin at 8:30 p.m., hosting four different bands for entertainment. Those bands are Coalescent, Stairwell, No Proof and Irvine.

A silent auction will take place throughout the event and close at 1:30 a.m. The potential prizes range from a custom leather guitar strap and concert tickets to party packages at Tiebreakers and autographed memorabilia.

More information and ticket purchases are available at rockthearts.org

"If you have an idea, it can be turned into something really great for your community," Marston said.

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

affordability and accountability.

While Spellings has an impressive list of accomplishments herself, the focus of the Spring Commencement ceremony will be the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2017.

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

GRADUATION

continued from A1

schooling. During her time as Secretary, she led the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act and launched a national discussion on the future of higher education that addressed issues of access,

the BIG VAPE THEORY

E-CIGS, VAPES, E-JUICES AND HARDWARE

INHALE THE FUTURE...EXHALE THE PAST

CLIMB ABOARD AND CHECK OUT OUR GREAT VAPE SELECTION!

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

2800 EAST 10TH STREET
(SHOPPING CENTER AT 10TH AND 5TH)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Authorized retailer for top brands you want

FREAKY FAST! FREAKY GOOD!

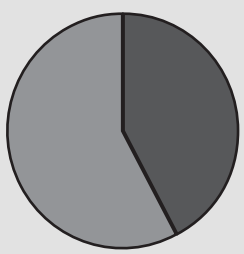
WE DELIVER!

TO FIND THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU VISIT JIMMYJOHNS.COM

©2017 JIMMY JOHN'S FRANCHISE, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

ANSWER

Did you go to Barefoot?



YES 57.7%
NO 42.3%

QUESTION

Are you graduating?

Vote online at
www.TheEastCarolinian.com

**WHY ISN'T
YOUR AD
HERE?**

**CONTACT US AT
252.328.9245
smaa@ecu.edu**

Our view

The year in review from editorial staff

As another year comes to a close, we, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, can't help but to reflect on the major events that made up our newspaper this year.

Looking back on the last year in news covered by The East Carolinian there is no shortage of stories to discuss, beginning in the summer with the announcement of new ECU Chancellor Cecil Staton starting. On Oct. 1, approximately 19 members of The Marching Pirates kneeled during the National Anthem of the ECU-UCF football game. Later that month Hurricane Matthew struck eastern North Carolina, closing the university for one week. Moving into November, the elections reached full pitch after a campaign season where President Trump, Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton came to visit ECU and Greenville. Remember the time President Bill Clinton randomly showed up on campus? Finally, in the spring, ECU officially installed Cecil Staton as the eighth chancellor, the Student Government Association held its annual elections and controversial public figure Tomi Lahren came to the university to speak about free speech.

News wasn't the only section that had all of the fun. Back on Sept. 10 the ECU football team beat in-state rival NC State in a 33-30 nail-biting finish, where quarterback Philip Nelson completed seven passes to receiver Zay Jones for 73 yards. At that point in the year the reception record

seemed miles away, but on Nov. 19 Jones came down with his 388th catch of his career and Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium erupted with thousands of fans' cheers. Jones ended his collegiate career with 399 receptions and put former Pirate Justin Hardy's 387 reception record to rest, all under first-year head coach Scottie Montgomery. As Spring rolled around the ECU baseball team caught some attention with the highest preseason ranking the team has ever obtained at No. 6 by Baseball America. Although ECU's teams were met with high expectations entering the year, we at The East Carolinian will look towards next year.

From the field to the stage, among student produced plays, art exhibits and fashion shows, ECU has also hosted a plethora of professional performers. Reporters and editors at the East Carolinian have gotten to cover performances by artists such as Daya, Waka Flocka Flame, Eric Church and Brad Paisley. As the school year comes to an end, we look forward to covering Blake Shelton's upcoming performance for Carolina Kickoff in August, as well as the other artists who will visit ECU in the 2017-18 school year.

It has certainly been an exciting year. We thank you, loyal readers, for your support and constructive criticism along the ride. Gook luck with finals, have a good summer and we'll see you soon.

Final goodbyes from the EIC



Seth Gullledge
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I said I wouldn't do this. I said that I wouldn't wait until the last minute to write this, but that's never been true. I said that I would sit down this weekend and write my Senior column, but there was too much

finality in such an act, and too much comfort in putting off the thoughts of tonight.

So here I am. The last production night of my editorship rapidly swirling about me, just on the other side of this thin office window. Editors, writers, designers, all running about, basking in the newsroom atmosphere that only a student journalist can understand. Most of them are juniors, some younger, all of them readying for their positions next year. Their minds are free, happy, anxious and thinking about the peacefulness of their upcoming break from these productions. Their minds are hungrily seeking out the future, making plans, deciding new policies, considering new decorations.

But it's not a break for all of us. There's only a few of us now, the seniors, and we're desperately trying to cling to each of these passing moments. Anxiously trying to recall every hour we spent within this newsroom, what stories made us proud, what mistakes taught us lessons, or what error made us stay until 2 a.m. that one night, or midnight another. But the thing that really plagues our minds is the thought of the last. The last time Corey will drop a story, or Lindsay will write a poll question. What will we feel when we see the last page proof, the last UNO victory. What will it be like to lock the door tonight, the last time we turn out the lights.

I hope it will be as beautiful as every time before.

But that's where we're at tonight, hoping for some form of closure. Celebrating years of pure, raw, experience into the course of only hours. I know that we'll fail, but I'm not



Editor in Chief Seth Gullledge, Opinion Editor Lindsay Rayner and Managing Editor Corey Keenan spend one of their last nights at The East Carolinian.

dissatisfied with the reason. The fact of the matter is that for us The East Carolinian has meant everything, it has defined our experience, gave meaning to our days, destroyed our GPAs, ruined our schedules, fractured our relationships and kept us up at night for so long that I can't recall what it was like before. This newsroom has been our home, full of our closest friends, the refuge of our passions, it has been the backdrop to most of our stories, and will remain the definition of our college experience. In short, we love this place, we love these people, and we love our jobs, and we are proud of our time at this paper. In shorter, we are this paper.

I guess there must be some time for recollection in a senior column, some acknowledgement of the future and how the past brought it upon you. I was supposed to write some form of advice, some gleaming from my experience that you could carry on. In truth, I'm not feeling particularly novel, and anything I gleam from this night of memories, any meaning I conclude from what this experience meant, I will jeal-

ously hold onto, and never dare risk it to the world. Looking at these years though, I know the thing that has defined me, and know the best advice I have to give:

Be a Dr. Wilson-Okamura, an Ellison, an Ulibarri and a Meyer. Be an Albright, a Romer, a Stevens, a Bauer, a Herron, and never forget to be a Tom Shields, a Wilson-Okamura. Find a Harvey, and a Feder. Never forget how much you owe every Luke, Rhett, Mary, Corey, Brian, Lindsay, Dan, Kelsey, Jessica, Mackenzie, Caroline, Andi, Rachel, Jon, Carson, Alec, Ellen and Cody you've leaned on this far. Find your Christy's, love your Tar River, never forget your Youngsville and embrace your Greenville. Most of all though, seek out your TEC, make your home there. Learn to be the best you, at any cost, and never, never regret your time there. Make these people painful to part from, make these places heartbreaking to leave.

I promise you that I did. They're calling for this column now. They're waiting to put out the last page,

to forever press these words of mine to print. I can only hope that these words will always convey what I felt here, I hope that I will never forget what my time leading this paper meant to me. Walking out of this newsroom tonight will not be easy, in fact, leaving these things tonight will be heartbreaking, but I'll do it beside the faces that make it difficult. I'll do it with the same memories that brought us smiles tonight, I'll do it with the same laughter and glee, heartbreak and frustration that each of these nights has brought us. Most of all, I'll do it as the journalist, the scholar, the friend and the leader these years have taught me to be. Tonight I'll lock these doors as a former student journalist, a former co-worker of some of the most beautiful people I've ever worked with. I'll walk away tonight the former Editor of The East Carolinian.

That's all I ever wanted to take with me. Seth Gullledge is a senior majoring in English and great books. He is the Editor in Chief and joined TEC in Spring of 2015. He is graduating in May. TEC thanks him for his service.

Our staff

Seth Gullledge Editor in Chief
Corey Keenan Managing Editor
Mattia Mitchell Production Manager
Javeria Salman News Editor

Jennifer Hines A&E Editor
Tori Poole Sports Editor
Paris Silver Photo Editor
Lindsay Rayner Copy/Opinion Editor

Annah Schwartz Multimedia Director
Anna Parrish Social Media Manager

Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: Editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245 **Fax:** (252) 328-9143

Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

AIMO fashion show includes bridal wear

Madison Lawson
TEC STAFF

A huge crystal chandelier twinkling in the dim lighting hung over a couple hundred people at the Rock Springs Center Friday evening. The smell of hairspray lingered backstage as cosmetologists quickly smoothed out any rogue hairs on the model's heads. The inaudible chatter from the audience dwindled to silence at the sight of the models lining up. Out onto the U-shaped runway walked show opener and East Carolina University senior, Megan Turner, who introduced the collection that she created from scratch.

"My collection was designed with the ease of wear in mind using pattern, color and texture," said Turner. "The last four and a half months have just been sitting in front of me and now I finally have the chance to see (the collection) finished and complete. I actually just finished sewing today at three o'clock."

The 13th annual Apparel and Interior Merchandising Organization (AIMO) fashion show on Friday combined the creative efforts of ECU textile design students such as Turner, Simone Johnson and Alicia Roueche, as well as six different boutiques from the surrounding area. Together, a one-of-a-kind show was produced that not only generated business for the designers and boutique owners but brought the community together to celebrate the meaning of fashion.

"I definitely think the show this year paid off," said Chelsea Kay, president of AIMO and ECU senior. "We have been working hard all semester and every year we improve more and more with our planning and execution; it made for a great show."

With the theme of the show being "A Night in Shining Armor," artistic director Maya Douglas focused on decorating the venue and made sure the atmosphere was dripping in silver and gold.

"Maya did a great job setting the mood with the sparkly lights and balloons," said Kay. "We really wanted a theme this year that gave us a color scheme to work with and we knew metallics were really in."

One of the newest additions to the AIMO show this year was bridal wear. Kay said the glamorous gowns added that extra bit of flare the show needed.

"Bridal went awesome," said Kay. "It added this dramatic effect and when the girls walked out people went 'Woah. That's beautiful.' I definitely think we should use it in the future."

Before the gowns from Unveiled Couture hit the runway, many other



Model Michaela Privette from Unveiled Couture admired her wedding gown at the AIMO show.

ONLINE VIDEO | A NIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR

MADISON LAWSON | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

boutiques such as Beloved, Truly Yours, Escape Spa and Boutique and Shimmer had models who wore very flirty and floral ensembles. All boutiques stayed on trend by including pieces that had playful necklines, textures and color. Preppy Pirate was the only boutique that featured men's fashion and offered a sporty relaxed twist to the show's overall classy, upscale vibe.

Model for Beloved boutique, Allie Vess, said the romper she wore on the runway was fun and on trend for the warmer months.

"I would say it's pretty trendy," said Vess. "It's white with a nice floral design and very flowy, and you know it gets hot out there so you (need to) have that circulation (and flow with your clothing)."

Audience member and mother of AIMO vice president Ruth Zabawski said this year's show inspired her to add

new pieces, similar to the one Vess wore, to her wardrobe.

"I'll definitely be on the lookout for those bathing suit cover ups and those rompers," said Zabawski. "It's funny to see those come back in fashion."

Feeling humbled by everyone who came out to the event, Kay said if it wasn't for all the help it received from the boutiques, sponsors and AIMO members, the event would not have been as successful as it was.

"We can plan a whole show but it means nothing if nobody shows up," said Kay. "We are so grateful for the people that came out and I think that this show is really important because it brings everybody together. A huge thank you to all the boutiques that participated and those of you who made tonight possible."

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

Jazz director leads student achievement

Jose Hernandez
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Jazz Ensemble consists of much more than talented musicians participating in the art of music.

Made up of all types of musicians from all over North Carolina and the east coast, the Jazz Ensemble boasts an impressive track record, with accolades including the Jazz Fest USA gold medal.

With a sound that is equal parts "pinpoint pacing" and "fluid swingability," the ECU Jazz Ensemble is no stranger to variety; its musical prowess ranges from big-band and swing-era regulars to more contemporary and original pieces.

As a result of having an unparalleled composite sound the ECUJE has found itself against many different stages ranging from conventions in Georgia and Kentucky, as well as an appearance on the "Jay Leno Show."

Leading the group is bassist Carroll V. Dashielle, director of the ECUJE.

Dashielle has garnered himself a high reputation as one of the most respected artists in the industry, with his skill as a director being recognized by local students and aficionados alike.

"He's definitely an amazing director," classical vocal performance senior Samantha Kunz said. "He expects a lot from us, but it's only because he knows we can do it."

Several members of the ECUJE have fond feelings for their leader, despite his high expectations.

"He's played with the top guys, legends," classical and jazz saxophone performance freshman Nathan Graybeal said. "That's in his ear, so that's what he hears and that's what he wants us to try to match."

As the director of an esteemed program, Dashielle expects no less than 100 percent effort from his students, a standard burned into the minds of his pupils.

"I wouldn't say he's a perfectionist, but he just wants us to give it our all and really try to achieve our potential," Kunz said.

Zachary Graybeal, a jazz studies junior and drummer for the ensemble, also has warm memories of performing under Dashielle.

"You're not going to get any BS past him," said Zachary. "He doesn't want you to be perfect, all he wants is you putting out your very best and he knows when you're not."

Dashielle added, "They're good kids, all of them. And even though they sometimes may get mad at me, I don't care. I still love them anyways."

For Dashielle, the ensemble represents much more than just a performance band, as he balances tenderness and rigorous instruction.

"All I want from them is their 100 percent effort. I want to know that they really put themselves out there," said Dashielle. "Sometimes it's not always perfect but that's okay, as long as they come in trying to be better than they were yesterday."

Impressive in both talent and spirit, the East Carolina University Jazz Ensemble is a proud and humbling representation of ECU's artistic prowess.

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

PLAY REVIEW

'Lend Me A Tenor' ends the year perfectly



Andy Li
TEC STAFF

Stop what you're doing. Stop reading this article. Go buy a ticket to "Lend Me A Tenor" for tonight. Then come back.

The deliciously hysterical comedy, directed by Robert Caprio, is the perfect way to finish the year for the School of Theatre and Dance. Filled with witty dialogue and perfectly timed physical comedy, audiences will be leaving the theatre begging for more.

The cast is brilliantly talented, with not a weak performance among them. Although the show is certainly carried by the men, the women give equally enriching if more subtle, less kinetic performances.

Collin Yates plays Max, the anxious assistant to the manager of the Cleveland Grand Opera Company. Yates seems the perfect leading man, with every mannerism, every vocal inflection, every gaze across stage making the audience truly believe his performance.

Josh Williams proves once again that



COURTESY OF ECU.EDU

"Lend Me A Tenor" at ECU debuted on Thursday and the final performance is tonight at 8.

he is the master of creating a character in his performance as Mr. Saunders, Max's boss. It's sad to think this is Williams' last performance on ECU's stage, but at least Yates still has a few more years to go.

Matty Reda rounds out the male trio as Tito Merelli, the world famous Italian tenor. Although Reda's performance seems a little lackluster at times compared to Yates and Williams, Reda is still

uproariously funny and handles his thick accent expertly.

Grace Hamashima portrays Maria, Tito's wife, and her performance was one of the brightest moments of the play. Her accent and her energy with Reda make for a realistically hysterical woman. Jane Simmons plays Maggie, Max's girlfriend and Saunders' daughter. Again, her performance is less kinetically funny as

her male counterparts and a little less engaging, but Simmons' likeability and charm bleed through the character and turn her into an enjoyable experience.

Kiara Hines, Heather Bortner and Pierce Williams all deliver wonderfully acted supporting roles. The set design is stunning, with simple but lovely art deco style that will remind audiences of American Horror Story's Hotel Cortez. Every costume was wonderfully crafted and thought out for each character. The perfectly timed lighting enhances the show in the right way without distracting.

All in all, "Lend Me A Tenor" is a perfect end to an amazing year of theatre. Caprio's final show at ECU reminds audiences of what is brilliant and shining about live theater.

RATING:



5 out of 5

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

Alumna to host dance crew auditions

Stevie Dupree-Parker
TEC STAFF

Tap, breakdance, jazz, whatever your genre of dance may be, Bring Your Everything dance crew could be the move for many local students.

East Carolina University alumna Jade Christina decided to expand her career as a professional dancer by coming back to her roots in Greenville. Christina is offering students on ECU's campus the opportunity to join her new dance crew Bring Your Everything (B.Y.E.).

"I know for a fact a lot of people are driven passionately at ECU and a lot of people in the arts want to shine just as much as they do academically," Christina said. "I know there's a lot of talented people there."

Dancing since she was 2 years old, Christina has expanded her brand by gaining followers on Instagram as well as subscribers to her YouTube channel.

"While at ECU, I was always doing something that related to performing," Christina said. "I've always loved to dance.

That has been my dream since I was 2 years old. I got my first pair of tap shoes at 2 years old."



Jade Christina

because that is the school that I'm from," Christina said.

Once a student aspiring to be a professional dancer, Christina still has dreams and expectations for herself and the performance students at ECU. When she finishes up her time in the Army, she hopes to dedicate all her time to dancing and building a crew.

"This is the route I'm going so if you want to get on the train then you should audition, and we'll see where it goes from there," said Christina.

Her current position in professional success

As Christina grows in her career, she wants to reciprocate the opportunity for aspiring dancers on East Carolina's campus.

"This is the beginning of a long process. It will start at East Carolina because that is the school that I'm from," Christina said.

has grown since graduation. Christina is a part of The Pulse on Tour, where she learns to work with other dancers and choreographers.

"I've never stopped (dancing); anytime I had free time I was always doing something. Dubianc dance crew was a part of East Carolina for a minute. I tried to bring that back, I was also the choreographer for DCMA Modeling troupe," said Christina.

Christina is working on broadening the scope of what a dance crew does.

"I already know which direction I'm going towards, I'm just trying to provide opportunity as well," Christina said.

Currently stationed at Fort Bragg, Christina will follow up her auditions at various schools in North Carolina such as Fayetteville State, University of North Carolina Greensboro, North Carolina A&T and many more after tending to her Pirates first.

"I'm starting my auditions at ECU, it will actually almost take an entire year because I want to be able to have people where I can call them up and get people in different areas," said Christina.

Elaborating on why East Carolina is her first spot for auditions, Christina said, "I know there are a lot of talented people, maybe who are majored in nursing but can pop and lock like sick, or can break dance really well. Everybody has like a hidden talent. I know there are people at ECU that have the same type of goals and aspirations I do in the performing aspect."

By placing herself around like-minded individuals, she was able to form lasting connections with people she graduated with.

"The students at ECU, mainly the ones from the Black Student Union, a lot of the students were dream-driven, much like me. We never really stopped going after what we believed was our own individual passion," said Christina.

Fast forward to today, Christina is excited to host auditions on ECU's campus. She plans on working with her crew in preparation for World of Dance, an international dance competition.

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

Barefoot on the Mall brings one last hoorah

Jose Hernandez
TEC STAFF

Last Thursday, East Carolina University hosted its 37th annual celebration of Barefoot on the Mall.

At the heart of the event was students ranging from all years and majors, putting their clubs and organizations on display for all of ECU to see.

Organized during what can only be described as one of the most stressful times for ECU students, Barefoot on the Mall takes advantage of the last half of the Spring Semester to give the university a much-needed mid-finals break.

Good weather, music and free knickknacks from student organizations all contributed to the event's success.

From the early afternoon well into the evening, Barefoot offered

something for everyone, even for students who found themselves just walking into it without any prior knowledge.

"I really, really need this," said junior Joseph Hayes, a history major. "Exams have been really stressing me out and this is the one chance I've had to catch a breath."

For sophomore Andrew Gamble, an economics major, Barefoot on the Mall represented a deep insight of why he chose to come to ECU.

"It's my first time and I got to say I really like it," said Gamble. "The environment was really relaxed and it just felt like this is the real ECU, you know? Also, all the free stuff helped a little."

The festival also gave student organizations the opportunity to get their messages across to students. Lining the brick



Singer Daya performs at ECU's annual Barefoot on the Mall on Thursday.

walkway from Flanagan to Joyner were booths, each offering a smorgasbord of swag including pens, bags, t-shirts and other staples of ECU student festivals.

SAB consistently brings performers to ECU year after year.

"I've been coming every year since I was a freshman," said senior geography major Carl

Moriarty. "It's always something I look forward to and I always try to make time for it."

A slow trickle of students walking through Barefoot in the beginning quickly turned into masses of students, all trying to reach different booths and get closer to the main stage, as all throughout the festival a variety of local musicians performed for ECU's student body.

In addition to local talent was Pittsburgh native and Grammy winner Daya, best known for her single "Hide Away" which debuted at No. 23 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Barefoot on the Mall also boasted many other activities for students, including a screening of "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted."

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

LOSE UP TO

50 lbs

& MAKE MONEY

*by selling your used textbooks for cash!
it's fast, safe, & 100% effective.*

WOW!

ON CAMPUS:

ECU got talent LIVE webcast at the Hendrix 4/27 from 4-6 pm. \$100 prize. FREE FOOD and admission. Visit you-on-tv.com/ecu for info. or contact Michael

Lee Goetz, Sr at 2527530072

HOUSES FOR RENT:

WALK TO CLASS – 1 BLOCK 2 bed/1.5bath quadplex. "Bucaneer 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.

3 bed 3 bath spacious condo @ 320 Brownlea Dr. PRELEASING 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)

EXPENSIVE ADS = EXPENSIVE RENTS. We Don't Do That – CHECK US OUT. WYNDHAM COURT APTS. PRELEASING NOW for Fall 2017. 2 bedroom with full size washer / dryer, dishwasher, FREE cable & internet, cheap utilities, on ECU bus route. As low as \$312.50 per person / \$625.00 per unit,

some pets OK. Pinnacle Mgmt. 561-RENT(7368)

NOW ALL INCLUSIVE!! WYNDHAM COURT APTS. All Utilities, Cable, Internet, 2 bedroom with full size washer / dryer, dishwasher, storm door, on ECU bus route starting at only \$387.50 per person / \$775.00 per unit, some pets OK. Pinnacle Mgmt. 561-RENT(7368) PRELEASING NOW for Fall 2017.

PIRATEPLACES.COM It's time to pick your perfect house across the street from ECU. We have over 90 of the best and closest houses next to ECU. Go to **PIRATEPLACES.COM** and pick your favorite home that is listed as AVAILABLE!!! The lease for each home MUST start on the date listed in the homes description. We can show and sign a lease now for a lease starting this summer. Last year all of our houses were rented by March find your house now so don't miss out. Go to **PIRATEPLACES.COM** today.

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.

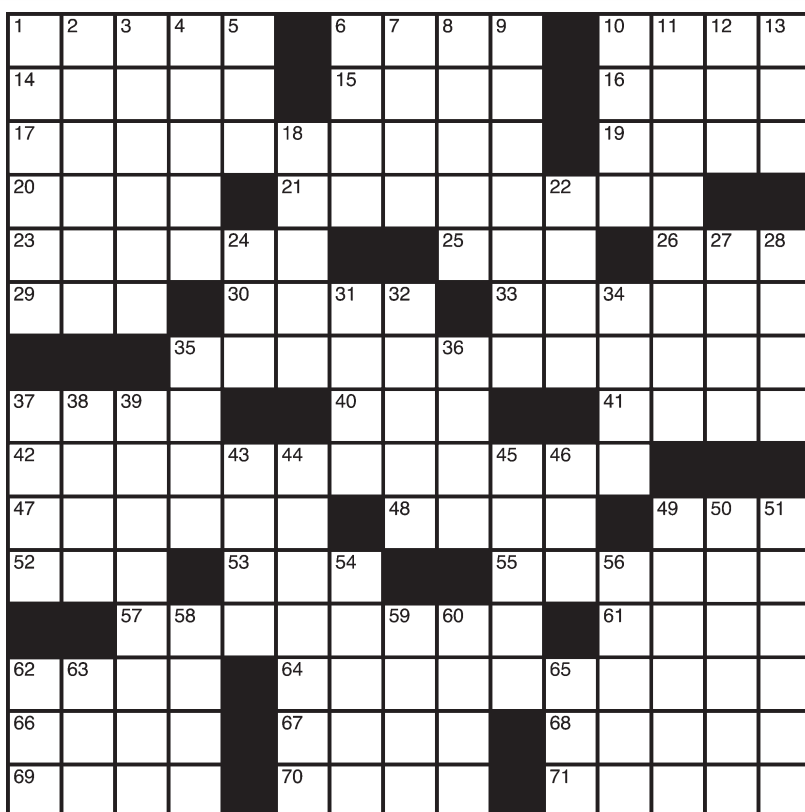
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Keebler cracker
- 6 Hotel employee
- 10 Consequently
- 14 Reference containing insets
- 15 Big name in luxury hotels
- 16 What some hogs hog, with "the"
- 17 Sheet for plotting in math class
- 19 Rich rocks
- 20 Added to the collection plate
- 21 Scrutinizes
- 23 Menlo Park inventor
- 25 Fort Worth sch.
- 26 Prohibition ___
- 29 Advent mo.
- 30 Silent approvals
- 33 Author Capote
- 35 Gridiron pass-defense scheme
- 37 Brand for Fido
- 40 Misspell or misspeak
- 41 Nibble (on)
- 42 TV series starter
- 47 Points a finger at
- 48 Decant
- 49 Soft slip-on
- 52 Traditional Asian sauce base
- 53 Seventh Greek letter
- 55 One-named Tejano singer
- 57 Eggs ___: brunch dish
- 61 General Bradley
- 62 Object of adoration
- 64 Market research target
- 66 Door openers
- 67 Provide a fake alibi for, say
- 68 Come together
- 69 Minimal effort
- 70 Storied loch
- 71 Mystic's deck

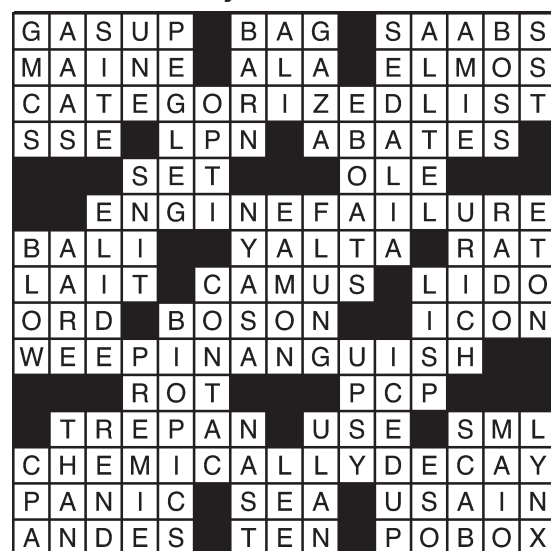
DOWN

- 1 Took a sharp turn
- 2 Online financial site
- 3 Like Croats and Serbs
- 4 Carton sealers
- 5 Volcanic debris
- 6 Reaction to a bad pun



- 7 Miami Sound Machine sound machines
- 8 Klutzy
- 9 Dish Network competitor
- 10 Jogger's pace
- 11 Member of the Apocalypse quartet
- 12 Abu Dhabi's fed.
- 13 Militant '60s campus org.
- 18 Attach, as a name tag
- 22 Restore to health
- 24 Tokyo-born Yoko
- 27 Hindu melody
- 28 From the beginning
- 31 Like the diving-board end of the pool
- 32 Rx, for short
- 34 Hard-to-resist impulse
- 35 Go like heck
- 36 Estimate words
- 37 BOLO equivalents
- 38 Disney's "___ & Stitch"
- 39 Don Juans
- 43 Many a manga fan

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- 44 "Coming Out of the Dark" singer Gloria
- 45 Expels by force
- 46 Dr. with Grammys
- 49 Life story
- 50 Running by itself, and where the first words of 17-, 35-, 42- and 64-Across can be placed
- 51 "Magic" transport
- 54 Photoshop maker
- 56 Doone of fiction
- 58 Otherwise
- 59 Puts frosting on
- 60 Scissors snips
- 62 Cold War prez
- 63 Org. busting dealers
- 65 ___ reaction: instinctive feeling

SUDOKU

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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

BRIAN JUDGE



HELP WANTED

ECU STUDENT MEDIA JOB OPPORTUNITIES

ECU Student Media has immediate openings for several paid positions:

- ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- MARKETING

Must be a reliable, enthusiastic, team-player. Interested applicants must be enrolled at East Carolina University, possess and maintain a minimum 2.25 GPA, and be in good disciplinary and academic standing with ECU.

To apply, please send letter of interest and resume to SMAA@ecu.edu



CONTACT US AT
252.328.9245
smaa@ecu.edu

ECU got talent LIVE

ECU got talent LIVE webcast at the Hendrix 4/27 from 4-6 pm. \$100 prize. FREE FOOD and admission.

Visit you-on-tv.com/ecu for info or contact Michael Lee Goetz, Sr at 252.753.0072

Deadline to audition is April 25, 2017 by midnight.

ECU grabs first AAC series win

Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

Behind the senior duo of Charlie Yorgen and Evan Kruczynski, who swept conference Player-of-the-Week awards, the East Carolina baseball team not only won its first conference game but hit its way to a series victory over Cincinnati.

The Pirates (22-19, 2-10 AAC) took Sunday's game in style, plating six runs in the eighth inning to push their lead to 11 runs and activate the 10-run rule, ending the game after just eight innings with a 14-3 victory. ECU's offensive explosion was highlighted by the American Conference's Hitter-of-the-Week, Yorgen, who hit a two-run homer to open the eighth inning scoring. Yorgen won Hitter-of-the-Week by batting .571 (8-for-14) with a triple, a home run and three RBI.

Senior Travis Watkins got the Pirates on the board first with a solo home run to open up the third inning. Despite surrendering the lead in the bottom of the inning, East Carolina got all over the Cincinnati (20-20, 5-7 AAC) pitchers in the top of the fourth and tacked together seven runs to blow the game open. Watkins and Bryce Harman each had RBI singles while Turner Brown and Spencer Brickhouse, who drove home three, had RBI doubles.

Watkins added four hits, three runs and four RBI to the ECU offense that scored its most runs since March 8 (15). The Pirates scored off every pitcher the Bearcats put on the mound, doing their most damage off the bullpen — featuring four pitchers that combined to surrender 13 runs.



Seniors Travis Watkins and Evan Kruczynski celebrate while coming off the field during a game.

Even though Jake Agnos didn't deliver the best start of his season, the ECU bullpen shut down the Cincinnati batters for just three hits and no runs over the final 3 2/3 innings. Tyler Smith (2-0) picked up the win after getting out of the fifth inning jam and holding Cincinnati scoreless through the sixth. Then West Cov-

ington entered the game and held the Bearcats hitless over the final two innings while the Pirates' offense continued to tack on the runs.

The highlight of ECU's weekend came on Saturday, however. It wasn't the team winning its first conference game, but the first sign of Evan Kruczynski looking like the pitcher the

Pirates expected him to be entering the season.

The lefty walked off the mound at the end of his eighth scoreless inning, fresh off retiring the side for the seventh consecutive time, knowing he just left his team up 6-0 and in line to finally break the in-conference losing streak. Kruczynski surrendered a single to Connor McVey in the first inning before setting down 22 batters in-a-row, including six strikeouts and no walks.

With a pitching performance like that, it didn't take much for ECU to get the win. Yorgen led off the top of the fourth with a single followed up by back-to-back doubles from Eric Tyler and Spencer Brickhouse, who drove in both runners, to give their starter all the run support he needed. The Pirates went on to tack on four more insurance runs which were highlighted by a Dwanya Williams-Sutton home run in the sixth and RBI singles from Dusty Baker and Turner Brown.

ECU did drop the first game of the series and were on pace to be shutout before scratching two runs across in the ninth inning. Trey Benton (3-2) was tagged with the loss after allowing four runs over his 5 1/3 innings of work. Sam Lanier and Davis Kirkpatrick had a tough time coming out of the bullpen, each allowing two runs in less than two innings.

Up next for the Pirates is a mid-week matchup against NC State before a weekend series against Tulane. Wednesday's game will be the Paint it Purple game at Clark-LeClair stadium and first pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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

Purple-Gold Game finishes spring ball

Sean Finnerty
TEC STAFF

With many football seniors as well as coaches leaving East Carolina following the 2016 season, the Pirates look to the youth to take the lead moving forward into the new season after playing in the annual Purple-Gold Saturday.

A little over a month ago the ECU football team returned to the Cliff Moore practice facility after a 3-9 season that left a bad taste in several players' mouths. ECU will attempt to right the ship under second-year head coach Scottie Montgomery. And on Saturday, the team took to the field to showcase what it worked on during spring practice, in what was essentially an offense-versus-defense scrimmage that ended in a 17-17 tie.

The offense, which racked up 607 yards, was led primarily by quarterbacks Gardner Minshew (Purple) and Reid Herring (Gold). They both guided their respective squads down the field for a pair of touchdown drives and one that resulted in a field goal. Minshew completed 21-of-36 passes for 265 yards and two touchdowns, while Herring finished 13-of-17 for 138 yards and a score.

"In general, I thought they did a really good job throughout spring of understanding our system," Montgomery said.

While the second-year coach was pleased with some aspects of his quarterbacks' play, there were also areas he pointed to that need improvement.

"I thought we missed a few down-the-field shots in our passing game that we could have had, but then again, I thought some of our (defensive backs) were a lot closer than they had been throughout spring," Montgomery said.

A unit that showed improvement was the defensive line, with tackles Justin Brown and Raequan Purvis making the biggest impacts. Brown recorded three tackles for loss and two sacks, while Purvis had two tackles for loss a sack. Tackle Jalen Price also had a fumble recovery, one of the game's two turnovers.

"I thought that defensively up front, for the first time since I've been here, I saw true pressure applied to the quarterback and that made me happy," Montgomery said.



Receiver Tahj Deans stretches out to make a catch in the Purple-Gold game Saturday.

ECU fans will also be glad to hear the placekickers were perfect on the day, as special teams were a weakness last year, with the Virginia Tech game being the low point. Jake Verity nailed a 42-yard field goal and two extra point tries. Caleb Pratt matched him with a 32-yard field goal and two extra point tries as well.

Another performance that should interest Pirate fans is that of receiver Quay Johnson. The Pirates will need to replace the production of Zay Jones, and Johnson looked eager to take that responsibility. The senior led all receivers with seven catches for 105 yards and a touchdown.

Overall, Montgomery looks at

the upcoming season with optimism, thanks in large part to the work his team put in during spring.

"I really think that our team did a whole completely different job of understanding our system this spring," Montgomery said. "The way that we go to class, the way we work in the weight room, everything, I think the system is in place now and we are headed in the right direction."

The Pirates will open the 2017 season against James Madison at Dowdy-Ficklen on Sept. 2.

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

ECU softball trending up under Oliver

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

Two seasons ago, East Carolina softball head coach Courtney Oliver inherited a team that went 16-37 in 2015, and looked as if there was little hope for the future. Since then, Coach Oliver has steadily improved her team's record, and she is a big reason why.



Courtney Oliver

The Pirates currently stand at 25-26 with just four games left on their schedule, and have a chance at going .500 or above for the first time since 2014. Along with the improvement of its record, ECU also saw a big change on offense, as this year's team has already set the American Athletic Conference single-season home run record, as well as the Pirates' team record for home runs. A change of culture for the team has been a pleasant surprise with much thanks to Oliver.

Before earning the head coaching job at ECU, Oliver was a five-time NCAA Regional participant as an assistant coach. She helped NC State to its first ever Top-25 finish during the 2015 season at No. 19 in the final polls. With experience in a winning culture, Oliver has brought that experience with her to ECU and is developing a winning culture of her own.

Redshirt junior Alex Mycek currently has 15 home runs on the season after hitting just three last year, and much of that has to do with the coaching Oliver and her staff has given her. With the home run hitting ability Mycek and the rest of the team has, the Pirates never feel as if a game is out of reach. This is a much different feeling of confidence Oliver's team has over the 2015 team she took over.

"Even when we are down three, four, five runs, if we get a couple runners on base, it's really easy for us to do what we do best and hit a dinger (home run) to either tie it up, or get us the win," Mycek said.

To go along with the improved confidence her team has, Oliver has also proven that her team has the ability to compete with tough conference foes. While the team is just 5-10 in the AAC this year, the Pirates got their first ever AAC series sweep over Connecticut. They also took down tough Atlantic Coastal Conference opponents this year in Virginia, Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh.

Another reason behind the improvement of the Pirates has been the development of senior pitcher Lydia Ritchie. After a 4-8 sophomore year in which she showed promise, Ritchie has taken a step in each season she has pitched under Oliver. Ritchie went 13-12 her junior year, and currently sits at an even better 16-12 this season.

While the Pirates are not yet contenders in the AAC, ECU fans can take comfort in knowing Oliver is at the helm. All signs point toward the Pirates trending upward, and could become contenders in a few years behind Oliver.

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

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

300,000+ students, faculty, staff, and guests visited Mendenhall Student Center last year




150,000+ dollars raised for scholarships and programming for our Greek & LGBT Communities

20,000+ hours of service performed by East Carolina University students

3200+ greek members at ECU - the largest community in the State of North Carolina

180 percent increase in voter engagement in ECU's Student Government Association

8 hours is all it took to sell out the Student Activities Board (SAB) Winter Concert

www.ecu.edu/sil  [ecusil](https://www.facebook.com/ecusil)  [@ECUSIL](https://twitter.com/ECUSIL)  [@ECUSIL](https://www.instagram.com/ECUSIL)

www.ecu.edu/studentcenters

Main Campus Student Center

Approx. 220,000 sq ft • Opens in Fall 2018



Health Sciences Campus Student Center

Approx. 75,000 sq ft • Now Open!



East Carolina University.

BOOK BUYBACK

CASH FOR YOUR BOOKS & a chance to WIN a TV & Gaming Station!

In-Store Buyback - Wright Building

Mon., April 24 - Wed., April 26: 8am - 6pm
 Thurs., April 27: 7:30am - 6pm
 Fri., April 28: 7:30am - 5pm
 Sat., April 29: 11am - 3pm
 Mon., May 1 - Thurs., May 4: 7:30am - 6pm
 Fri., May 5: 8 am - 5pm

Dowdy Trailer Buy Back - College Hill Dr. Large Parking Lot & West End

Fri., April 28: 9am - 4pm
 Mon., May 1 - Thurs., May 4: 9am - 4pm

SCRATCH OFF CARD when you sell back your books



Limited to first 1000 students at Wright Bldg. location. See web site for rules & details.

Did you RENT textbooks this semester? Remember to return your RENTAL textbooks by the date on your receipt, and don't sell them back!

AND DON'T MISS OUR GRADUATION SALE May 3-6



DOWDY STUDENT STORES 



Dowdy Student Stores • Wright Building • www.studentstores.ecu.edu • (252) 328-6731

CONGRATULATIONS

to our *Graduating Seniors*

East Carolina University

STUDENT MEDIA



Sunshine Yang
Kirsten Holmes
Karlie Troyan
Katie Caviness
J' Keyah Hull
Ini Ndoh
Tyler Goodwin

The East
Carolinian

Seth Gullede
Corey Keenan
Lindsay Rayner
Anna Parrish
Jennifer Hines
Brian Wudkwyh
Arvanna Smart
Alaina Corsini
Caitlin Griffin

e expressions

STUDENT MEDIA PRESENTS

REBEL 57

ARTS AND LITERARY MAGAZINE

Amanda Adkins
Ashton Tygart
Samuel Alvarado
Nichole Currie
Elizabeth Reed

THE
Hook
ECU's Student Interest Magazine



Shayna Jones
Gregory Peyton Land
Alyssa Patterson



Mackenzie Tewksbury
Hannah Faye Sanders

