

The East Carolinian

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EC scholars announced

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

The Honors College at East Carolina University is excited to welcome 20 new EC Scholars as the program looks to grow in the coming years.

Dean of the ECU Honors College, David White said this incoming class is both extremely bright academically and driven to do well at the university.

“What really strikes me about this group is not just the academic stellar record which is very important, but also the passion to come into here and really make a difference,” White said.

The program accepted Breanna Alligood, Zachary Barnett, Jamie Chamberlin, Victoria Chan, Marianne Congema, Benjamin Estorge, Marissa Ferrell, Joshua Gurganus, Marguerite Hemedinger, Peyton Jackson, Summer Kenny, Chelsea Lennon, Jiahao Li, Phoenix Little, Taylor Malachowski, Malinda Massey, Nikita Revankar, Dana Shefet, Breanne Smith and Tiana Washington.

Several of the incoming Honors College students are from high schools within Pitt County, while others will come to ECU from Raleigh, Wilmington and Wake Forest. Pitt County’s D.H. Conley High School, south of Greenville, had two students accepted into the program. Along with Conley, multiple students from J.H. Rose High School on Arlington Boulevard were also accepted.

“There really wasn’t anything intentional about that,” White said referring to the number of Pitt County students accepted as EC Scholars. “It was just the way it worked out. We’re going to look at our recruiting strategies to make sure we are recruiting well in other areas.”

ECU is planning on expanding the Honors College in the coming years. White said in the next few years the Honors College will grow significantly.

“This fall we are preparing to welcome our first class of 200 to the university which is twice as many as last fall,” White said. “We will grow by a hundred each year for the next four years.”

This effort to grow the Honors College is part of a mission to increase the program’s reputation.

> **SCHOLARS** page A2

HURRICANE SEASON BEGINS

JOHN SLEEZER | TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

‘Above average’ season looms

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

After an active hurricane season in eastern North Carolina last year, forecasters locally, in Morehead City and nationally are predicting another busy fall 2017.

The 2017 hurricane season began on June 1. Ahead of the season, forecasters at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a statement announcing their seasonal outlook for this year.

“The hurricane season in the Atlan-

tic Ocean is favored to be above average according to the 2017 outlook issued by scientists at NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center,” stated in the NOAA announcement.

In the statement, meteorologists identified a weaker El Nino weather pattern which will contribute to the busy hurricane season.

“Forecasters predict between 11 and 17 named systems will form in the Atlantic Ocean this season,” according to NOAA.

Out of those storms, the NOAA’s

outlook currently predicts five to nine of those will become hurricanes, with two to four of those storms predicted to become major hurricanes with wind speeds in excess of 110 mph.

Belkys Melendez, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Newport/Morehead City, North Carolina, said on an average basis the state will usually be affected by at least one tropical system a year.

> **SEASON** page A3

University prepares for hurricanes

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety are working diligently to prepare for hurricanes as the 2017 hurricane season began on June 1.

The university’s planning for this hurricane season has become a two-part mission, testing the institution against the worst conditions and increasing student awareness about flooding.

Lauren Mink, continuity and emergency planner at ECU, recently met with the National Weather

Service ahead of the 2017 hurricane season. During the meeting, Mink said the NWS talked with her about the university’s upcoming hurricane drill and getting more information out to students about flooding.

A hurricane drill will be held in mid-October that will test the entire University of North Carolina system. Mink said this is the first time in the United States an entire university

system will conduct this type of drill.

“This probably would have cost us over \$250,000 to do if we were to do it in house, meaning everyone coordinates their own university so we reached out to the Federal Emergency Management Agency,” Mink said.

FEMA agreed to sponsor the university as long as the drill tested the system against a category five hurricane, according to Mink.

“North Carolina has never seen CAT

> **PREPARE** page A3



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National Guard trucks drive through the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew flooding in Greenville. The coast is expected to have another busy season.

Professor receives accolade



Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

With kind, wise eyes, in an office filled with papers and books, accomplished writer and East Carolina University professor Liza Wieland sat in Bate 2300A.

Wieland recently received the 2017 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. The fellowship is a nonprofit organization that encourages literature in the South. Though Wieland was born in Chicago and then lived in Texas and Pennsylvania, she moved to Atlanta, Georgia, when she was six and considers herself a product of the South.

“I really feel like my

writing has been influenced by southern writers, particularly I would say Faulkner and Flannery O’Connor, so I think in terms of influence and the sights and sounds and smells I absorbed as a child and as a teenager, the South is very important,” Wieland said.

Wieland will be going to Chattanooga, Tennessee, in November to receive the award.

“It has been won in previous years by some pretty impressive writers, and some of my favorite writers... so I’m very honored to be in their company and it’s an award that’s for my career-long achievement, so all eight

> **AWARD** page A3

Professor Liza Wieland was awarded the 2017 Robert Penn Warren award for Fiction from the Fellowship of Southern Writers.

GPD rollout body cameras

Cookie Brower
TEC STAFF

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF



For the Greenville Police Department, community policing has become a major component of its work and body cameras are at the center of that campaign, according to Kristen Hunter, public information officer with GPD.

Every officer with Greenville Police should have a body camera by the middle of June, Hunter said.

“Beforehand, we’ve had body cameras for several years now for our officers,” Hunter said. “(But) we haven’t had them for every single officer.”

The funding for this all came from the federal government, according to Hunter. GPD’s contract with the body camera business allowed the police department to trade in their existing supplies for state-of-the-art technology, Hunter said.

Hunter said the body cameras aren’t fool proof against technological or human error, but they have added an extra layer of security for officers and the public. Hunter added officers who haven’t worked with body cameras before have had to adjust to the technology.

“We’ve definitely run into a few instances where officers

> **CAMERAS** page A3

ONLINE

» Study abroad program emphasizes safety while overseas

» Godwin named to National Team Development Program staff

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Assistant Dean of Students announced

East Carolina University announced the assistant dean of students vacancy will be filled by Patricia Barfield, who will bring years of experience and knowledge to the position.

In the announcement, ECU Dean of Students Lynn Roeder said she was extremely pleased with the news. Barfield began working in the dean of students office in the fall of 2013 as a graduate assistant. She also served as the ECU student affairs case manager in 2015.

Barfield holds a number of certificates in several different categories and has received multiple awards in the last two years.

ECU Brody School of Medicine Dean Search Committee to meet

East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine Dean Search Committee will meet at 12 p.m. today to consider confidential personnel information.

The committee will meet in the Executive Conference Room on the Health Sciences Campus of ECU. After meeting, the committee will move immediately into a closed door session.

No immediate action is expected to be taken following the session.

Joyner Library to host ancient photons photography event

East Carolina University professor and molecular geneticist, Tim Christensen, will use photography to try and convey the science of the universe to viewers during his Ancient Photons event this Friday.

The event will be held in the Joyner Library Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery at 8 a.m.

Christensen will use the art of photography to express scientific data to visitors in hopes the photographs will inspire visitors to think more about the universe.

Young & Sober meeting to be held Friday

The "Young & Sober" Alcoholics Anonymous will meet this Friday as part of the 12 step meeting process that is an "open discussion" for East Carolina University students.

The meeting will be held on Friday in the Student Recreation Center from 7-8 p.m.

If participants are not part of the ECU community, organizers advise individuals to go to the front desk and tell them about the "wellness meeting." The front desk will direct participants to the correct location after that point.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Dog sticking its head outside a window. Hot temperatures raise risk about heat-related injuries.

Hot temperatures require vigilance

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

As the summer continues and the temperatures rise, Greenville residents are reminded of the dangers of leaving young children and pets locked inside of vehicles in the heat.

Earlier this summer, an isolated incident involving a young child led the Greenville Police Department to take action on the issue.

On the afternoon of May 18, a passerby noticed a small toddler child strapped into a car seat in the back of a locked, parked car.

According to the press release sent out by GPD, the mother of the child, Ashley Garris, 21 of Greenville, left her child in an extremely hot car. While she shopped in the Ulta store for approximately an hour, temperatures in the car ranged from 104-106 degrees Fahrenheit.

The child, age two, was rescued by GPD Officer Elliot Gruhn who responded to calls of concern and drove to the shopping area on 3120 Evans Street, where he rescued the child from the vehicle. After being taken into another nearby business to cool down, the child was taken to Vidant Medical Center and recovered without lasting physical harm, though the child is now in the custody of DSS Child Protective Services.

Garris has been arrested and was charged with misdemeanor child abuse, as well as contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Kristen Hunter, public information officer with GPD, said there are consequences for leaving children unattended in the heat and that this is a problem in the Greenville community, especially during the summer.

Hunter added that leaving pets unattended in hot vehicles should also be avoided in all circumstances.

"We do see an increase in calls (during summer)," Hunter said. "Fortunately, this was a rare circumstance for us in that most calls for children locked in hot cars come from parents who have accidentally locked their keys in the car. In those cases, the child is out within minutes compared to the estimated hour this child was left inside."

According to Dr. Shannon Longshore, the medical director for the Eastern Carolina

Injury Prevention Program at Vidant Medical Center, children left in heat can suffer serious health risks.

"In just ten minutes, a car can increase temperature by twenty degrees. Children that are left in hot cars develop heatstroke, their bodies heat up five times faster than adults," Longshore said. "Infants do not have the ability to sweat and cool themselves. Children develop heat stroke and this leads to organ damage which leads to death. When a child's temperature reaches 107 degrees Fahrenheit, they die."

Longshore said nationwide there are around 35 to 40 child deaths due to health risks associated with neglectful parents leaving their children behind in hot vehicles.

"Once a child has been rescued from a hot vehicle, they should call 911. This is an emergency situation," Longshore said. "Children are assessed in the emergency (room) and evaluated for dehydration if they are speaking and stable. If they are unconscious, they are stabilized in the ER and then transported to the pediatric intensive care unit"

Hunter said people can be charged criminally for leaving children or pets in vehicles.

"It is considered abuse if you leave your child in the car, there really is never a case where it's okay to leave a child of any age in the car, particularly one that is not able to move about on its own," Hunter said. "I would definitely caution parents, caretakers, babysitters to just take those extra steps, especially this summer as it get warmer, to make sure that your child is always with you."

According to Hunter, the situation earlier this summer was dire and the outcome could have been very different if it were not for the proactive actions of the bystanders.

"The child was very lucky to have those good samaritans spot him in the back seat of that car and that first responders were so close by. Had it not happened the way it did, there's no doubt that this could've ended much differently," Hunter said.

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

ECU college names dean with vision

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees selected Harry Ploehn to be the new dean of the College of Engineering and Technology during a special meeting Friday.

Ploehn brings with him more than 25 years of higher education experience. He most recently was a professor of chemical engineering and associate dean for faculty affairs and strategic initiatives in the College of Engineering and Computing at the University of South Carolina.

David White, dean of the Honors College at ECU, interviewed Ploehn during the search process.

While the university was in the process of filling the position, White also served as an interim dean to the College of Engineering and Technology.

"My initial impression of Harry was very positive," White said. "He seems friendly, engaging and I think he has a solid academic and administrative background."

White said he expected Ploehn to continue in the university's efforts to promote student success and increase the college's research profile.

White added, "his ideas and plans are very consistent with ECU and the chancellor's vision."

White and Ploehn have spent time together since the selection was announced. White said he wanted Ploehn to look at him as a resource and the relationship between the two is mutually beneficial, he said.

ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson said Ploehn was a natural fit for the university.

"Harry Ploehn is an exciting addition to ECU's leadership team," Mitchelson said in a university statement announcing the selection. "He will be heading up a key college that we are strategically prioritizing."

Along with being a faculty member at USC since 1995, Ploehn is a fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and has received several teaching awards since 1992.

"This is the perfect opportunity for me, because my aspirations and priorities match up so well with those of the college's faculty and staff as well as the university's leadership team," Ploehn said in the university announcement.

In the announcement, Ploehn spoke very highly of White in his tenure as interim dean of the College of Engineering and Technology.

White said the Honors College and College of Engineering and Technology were very closely linked at ECU. Because of that relationship, White said he hopes the two colleges can increase their teamwork in the future.

The College of Engineering and Technology offers students nine undergraduate and seven graduate degrees. Those options, along with the five certificate programs, educate approximately 2,730 undergraduates students.

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

SCHOLARS
continued from A1

White said another area the program is expanding into is offering high school sophomores a chance to tour the ECU Honors College. This offer could give ECU a recruiting edge, White said.

The EC Scholars program is meant to recognize outstanding academic performance along with community and leadership skills. The scholarship is for four years and allows the students to study abroad if they wish. The offer from ECU is valued at approximately \$62,000, according to the university announcement.

The incoming class had a combined math and

verbal SAT score of 1339, average ACT score of 28 and an average unweighted grade point average of 3.88, according to the statement.

The incoming class will join other freshmen on campus August 21, when the fall semester at ECU begins.

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East Carolina University
STUDENT MEDIA

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72 PLUS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

TODAY

Umbrella Market
Five Points Plaza
5 p.m.

Karaoke Night at Fire
Fire American Tavern
8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Sip and Shop
Buzz Coffee House
6 p.m.

Pints and Politics
Uptown Brewing Company
7 p.m.

Guided Meditation Class
Sage & Stone Restorative Health
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Drinking Liberally
Fire American Tavern
6 p.m.

Friday Night Party
Trollingwood
8 p.m.

Electric Soul Pandemic live
Crossbones Tavern
10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Father's Day Prep
The Painted Peacock
9 a.m.

Miss Greenville America Pageant
Crave
10 p.m.

Eyes on tropics during hurricane season

SEASON

continued from A1

Melendez said meteorologists at the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center and National Hurricane Center forecasted that with a weak El Nino, conditions will be present to allow hurricanes to form.

The NWS will be using new technology this season. According to Melendez, the new technology will give forecasters quicker, more detailed and comprehensive forecasts that will help predict a storm's progress.

"Our best thing that we always tell everyone is regardless of how many hurricanes or tropical systems that are formed in the Atlantic basin, it only takes one to disturb your life," Melendez said.

Scott Curtis, professor of atmospheric science in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at East Carolina University, said it's difficult to predict a hurricane's impact, especially at the beginning of the season. He did caution residents to be aware of the tropics because of the above average intensity in this upcoming hurricane season.

Curtis said different factors go into the seasonal outlook than predicting where hurricanes will form and if they make landfall. In the seasonal outlook, forecasters predicted the Atlantic Ocean to be warmer and for there to be less wind shear that could break up a storm, according to Curtis.

The city of Greenville poses a unique challenge to safety during a hurricane. In both Hurricane Floyd in 1999 and Matthew in 2016, the storms were relatively weak in terms of wind speed, but brought heavy rains to eastern North Carolina.

"A lot of people don't know this, but nine out of 10 deaths from a hurricane come from water in one of two forms," Curtis said. "The first one is storm surge, but there is also inland flooding which is caused by precipitation."

During Hurricane Matthew, much of the damage and danger came from the precipitation. Curtis said, for the city of Greenville, the major danger is in flash flooding and rainfall farther up in the Tar River.

"With climate change, that's one of the things we are really concerned about is that there is more moisture in the atmosphere



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Flooding of local apartment during Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016.

to power these rainfall events," Curtis said.

Curtis also emphasized that residents should be cautious relying on the category of a hurricane. The category of the storm relates to its sustained wind speed. Curtis said residents should pay close attention to the rainfall predictions. During both Hurricane Floyd and Matthew, while the sustained winds weren't severe, the rainfall was and that deceived a lot of people.

Curtis advised residents to pay attention to the tropics along with their local forecasters and advisories coming from the NWS.

"A lot of times people will just focus on the hurricane center, but it is also important to look at your local forecasts," Curtis said. "They're going to be looking at the hazards that are going to affect you directly."

The NOAA statement said forecasters will update their prediction in August, ahead of the busiest point in the season. In the meantime, residents of eastern North Carolina should use last year's hurricane as a reason to prepare.

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

PREPARE

continued from A1

five hurricane, nor do I think that's possible," Mink said. "CAT five (hurricanes) don't normally last that high up in the latitudes since we're in the mid-Atlantic."

During the drill, the UNC system will operate under the premise that a category five hurricane will directly impact Wilmington, North Carolina and move into the state. ECU would be one of the worst impacted areas in this exercise, Mink said.

Mink also said the university wants to increase the information given out to the student body about living in floodplains and the risks of flooding without insurance.

"We've met with the American

Red Cross and they're very interested in providing resources," Mink said.

Currently, no plans have been set as the university is working to identify the best way of reaching students.

Mink said she felt ready for the upcoming hurricane season because of all the preparing ECU does as part of the StormReady program.

"StormReady for ECU means having resources in place and having trained folks on campus," Mink said.

ECU was first designated as StormReady in 2009 and was recognized again in the spring of 2016, she said. The program is operated by the NWS and works to equip communities with skilled individuals and detailed plans so they're prepared for dangerous weather.

Along with ECU, the North Carolina Department of Public Safety is working to be ready for any tropical storm systems headed into the area.

Julia Jarema, communications officer for the NCDPS, said the ReadyNC program, operated by NCDPS, is one of the tools available to the public to help inform and keep individuals safe.

Jarema added NCDPS works closely with the National Weather Service's seven offices that cover North Carolina. The two agencies share information and forecasts in order to protect residents, she said.

"In the emergency management field, you're constantly paying attention to the weather because that's the cause of most of the disasters that we have," Jarema said. "This time of year we start to

pay extra close attention to what's coming off the coast of Africa and what's going on in the tropics."

Jarema emphasized that residents should always listen to warnings, especially evacuations.

"There were a lot of people that had problems in (Hurricane) Matthew that didn't have problems in (Hurricane) Floyd," Jarema said. "You don't know what exactly emergency management officials know. They've got the resources, expertise so pay attention to those people."

According to Mink, after a year where eastern North Carolina was devastated by the third worst flooding event in state history, ECU and NCDPS want to do as much as possible to protect residents.

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

CAMERAS

continued from A1

have forgotten to turn the cameras on, but it certainly hasn't been intentional," Hunter said.

Hunter said GPD was ahead of the trend with equipping officers with body cameras. With every officer in the department having a body camera, Hunter believes it will add another layer of transparency.

"Our philosophy when it comes to policing is really just being community oriented," Hunter said. "This push to equip all of our officers with

body cameras was with the community in mind."

Hunter said, through community events, the police department has gotten mostly positive support.

"I believe body cams on police officers help keep policemen accountable, and help identify specific behaviors, tactics that can trigger or defuse a hazardous situation," said Courtney Rowe, a sophomore English major at East Carolina University.

Some students believe making a bond between citizens and police officers would lessen tension to bring the community closer.

"The incorporation of body cams by GPD would create a new sense of security between the community," Nate McGowan, a senior studying marketing and risk management said. "In a time where community members and police officers aren't exactly working together, body cams give citizen more reason to trust their local police department. The body cams won't completely change the general distrust between the parties, but it's a first step in a long road to rebuilding a needed relationship."

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



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Officer Peterson poses with body camera.

AWARD

continued from A1

of my novels, from the beginning to the end, so it feels like a real vindication of what I've been doing," she said.

The recipient of around 40 various grants, awards and honors, Wieland is an example to her students that becoming a successful writer can become a reality.

"It shows my students that there is a way to achieve their goals and being a writer, writing a novel, it does happen," Wieland said. "Writers live in the world and they're not all dead and men and white, so it kind of brings my students a sense that... it's not impossible for them to want to be writers."

Wieland has been at ECU since 2007 and says she has noticed a real, new passion for writing in ECU students. Junior Garrett Yarbrough and ECU alumna Sarah McKeever are two students Wieland has taught. Both say Wieland has inspired them, bringing out and encouraging their own passions for writing.

"Her combination of humility and greatness is what inspires so many students to be better writers," McKeever, who majored in English with a creative writing minor, said after spending the past year in some of Wieland's fiction courses. "It is why all of her students garner the respect and admiration for her that they do."

Yarbrough, an English and history double major with a creative writing minor, has had Wieland for three writing courses while at ECU.



EMILY HARVEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
ECU professor Liza Wieland works at her desk. Wieland recently won an award for fiction writing.

"Dr. Wieland has supported my creative writing even prior to my college compositions," Yarbrough said. "While applying to colleges, I was torn between creative writing programs, and the ECU English Department put me in contact with Dr. Wieland."

Yarbrough said he toured several other campuses, sat in on different writing panels and had briefly spoken with some writing faculty at other universities, but Wieland went out of her way to speak with him.

"For Dr. Wieland to go out of her way to have quite a lengthy conversation with a completely random high school student over the phone about their dream of being a writer, while she was cooking dinner at her home, showed her dedication to her career of

fostering each bit of creative writing talent she could find in every student," Yarbrough said.

Wieland says ECU and its English department provide great opportunities for students to learn.

"Students benefit from being taught by people who are actually practitioners of their discipline or of their craft, and the English department is full of professors who are writing and then teaching about what they write and really walking the walk as well as talking the talk," Wieland said. "The more we publish and the more we do our work, the better we can engage with the students and show them the truth of what we do."

Yarbrough says Wieland never lost faith in his ability to make a career out of writing, constantly helping with revisions.

"She pushed me constantly to submit my work for publication, and my first published story was a product of one of her workshops," Yarbrough said. "Dr. Wieland's consistent support convinced me that I have potential, and I do not see myself giving up my pursuit of a creative writing career."

Yarbrough added, "I have the privilege of calling Dr. Wieland one of the best professors I have gotten to work under... One day I hope to call my aspiration to write my profession, and Dr. Wieland's tutelage would be a formative experience."

McKeever said on the last day of Advanced Fiction Writing in the spring, some of Wieland's students sat in the classroom after the class was dismissed.

"We all knew that we were about to leave something very special behind and we all wanted to savor the experience for a few moments longer, for posterity," McKeever said. "I know I will never have a better creative writing teacher than Dr. W."

Students unanimously agreed that Wieland is well deserving of the 2017 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction, as well as other awards, not only for her personal work but also for her ability to support and help her students grow as writers.

As Wieland sat and spoke of her novels and teaching experiences with a mixture of humbleness and pride in her voice, the love she has for writing and the passion she has for sharing her talent and experience with her students was undoubtedly clear.

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

OUR VIEW

Accountability in Greek life begins within

Last week, the national organization of Phi Sigma Epsilon closed its local chapter at East Carolina University. In their statement, the national organization pointed to the ECU chapter's years of violations as reason for the "chapter revocation."

In the 2016-17 academic year alone, the fraternity committed several violations, which include destroying neighboring property, throwing a joint party with another fraternity that resulted in the police being called and multiple instances of burning furniture that resulted in the fire department being called, according to the statement.

The statement went on to say "the deliberate choices of current chapter members to violate the clear expectations set these last several school years show that the members are unwilling to hold themselves and others to the basic expectations of the law and East Carolina's student code of conduct."

We, the editorial staff at The East Carolinian, believe that while progress has been made, more can and should be done to prevent behavior like this from fraternities. Specifically, the local chapters need to be more accountable and police themselves, instead of waiting to be punished by their national organization.

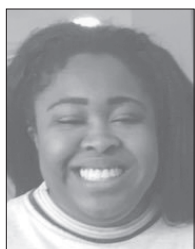
Some may claim whistle blowing is an act of betrayal, but we believe the true betrayal is the selfish act of a brother committing a crime or violation that brings disgrace to his fraternity, his school and himself. Those that stand by and do nothing while crimes are committed are complicit in the act.

Just remember, as a member of a fraternity at ECU, your actions don't just represent yourself, but also the university, your fraternity and Greek life as a whole.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



Dangers of driving while black



Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

Bless The Press

Red. White. Blue. The ever blinding glare of colored lights flared bright behind me as the sound of a siren permeated through the cool air of the summer night. Filled with unease,

I pulled over to the side of the gravel-ridden road. My license sat in my left pocket, my registration in my right.

And as nerves made their way down my spine while I inhaled the deepest of breaths, I rolled down my window, with hopes that such a breath would not be my last.

Many African Americans are warned from a very young age about how to interact with police when behind the wheel. To some, these how-to-save-a-life tutorials may seem unnecessary or even typical. To others, these warnings are essential.

In 2011, the U.S Department of Justice statistics showed that more black drivers (12.8%) are pulled over than white (9.8%) or Hispanic (10.4%) drivers. In the seven states with the most sweeping reporting requirements, data shows that police officers are more likely to pull over black drivers than white ones. North Carolina is one of those seven states.

From Ferguson to Baltimore, the country has been swept with enraged and fear-stricken African American people, due to the ignited turmoil from deaths of unarmed blacks after encounters with law enforcement. For years, the incessant national debate over the influ-

ence of racial bias in police behavior has sparked and split the American people, making it almost impossible to come to a common consensus on how to fix such a complex controversy.

The names of Philando Castile, Jordan Edwards, Sandra Bland, and countless others remain emboldened on my mind like highlighted words on an all-too-thick history textbook. Yet as the names transition into hashtags and headlines, the shock value in me begins to wear out. So many names. So many shots. Not enough solutions. We mourn, we march, and we move on. The never-ending cycle of response.

We need to start debating less and discussing more. If we can never agree on what the problem is, then a solution will never come to existence. We live in a world of us versus them, and that mentality is divisive in itself. People need to be having uncomfortable conversations with people who look and have lived different than them. Then and only then can you gain an insightful perspective of how someone else may feel when it comes to injustice in this country.

Accountability has to be taken in order for justice to prevail. More often than not, we see cases of police conduct leading to the death of black civilians ending in no indictments or not guilty verdicts. Police departments become enveloped in secrecy when it comes to case details, ranging from video footage to audio evidence.

Controversial cases shrouded in death and mystery should be investigated by independent prosecutors and outside departments. States should even consider implementing a fully authorized and independent Office of Police Investi-

gations. District attorneys often work closely with the police in their jurisdiction. To have the friends of the police prosecuting the police is inequity at its finest. We owe more to the families of the deceased. We owe more to concerned black youth. We owe more to the concept of a fair and equitable due process.

We also have to speak up and speak out as a united front. People of different races must stand hand in hand with those who are not the majority. As one nation, we must strive for a common goal and agenda. That goal should be for the betterment of relations between both law enforcement and African Americans, two groups of people that must coexist in harmony.

Outrage should be expressed in all forms except violence. Violence does nothing but defeat one's purpose and overall messaging. Protesting and marching is encouraged. Rioting and looting, however, should be disavowed. Protesters and rioters also shouldn't be lumped into one. By doing that, one downplays those who truly want to fight injustice with peace.

The minor infractions and police pull-overs should not be death sentences. Fear should not fester in the minds of blacks whenever they hear police sirens as they drive. Both black citizens and law enforcement want to and deserve to come home safe at the end of the day. Driving while black is not a gamble that I choose to take. No more hashtags. No more headlines. No more loss of black breath.

Blessing Aghimien is a sophomore majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Perfection found in simplicity



Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Your Daily Mel

There is a quote from the book The Importance of Living that says, "The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials," and this

summer I am determined to get rid of the nonessentials in my own life.

The realization started this past week, when I attended training in the mountains for a mission camp I will be working at this summer.

One of the main themes of the camp is simplicity, specifically the act of learning how to get by with only what is necessary. There is no air conditioning, no internet, no phone signal and most people sleep outside on the ground without a real bed.

To many this idea of "roughing it" might seem inconvenient and like a step backwards, but for me, the opportunity to let go of some of these luxuries could not have come at a better time.

In a world that is so focused on having the next best thing, we sometimes forget to slow down and appreciate what isn't man-made. We get so caught up in these material objects, we forget to focus on ourselves and the world around us.

I did not have my phone for a whole week. I couldn't call, text or get

on social media, yet I still survived. I thrived, because I was not checking snapchat everyday trying to keep up meaningless streaks. I wasn't counting on a ten second picture every twenty four hours to hold together relationships, but I was able to actually be present with the people around me.

When I finally came back home, the world was still there-- just the same as before. Yeah, I missed the mystery that is covfeffe and the latest skit on SNL, but I did not miss anything important enough for the stress we put on technology.

I could actually appreciate a pretty sunset or cook dinner with friends without worrying about what to caption the photo I would inevitably take. I was able to be more productive. I was able to be me, because I was not worried about my image and this facade we often create for people through social media.

We have all heard the saying by the famous minimalist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohem claiming "Less is more," but I never truly got the idea until now.

Our generation has a harder time than the generations before us is many ways, because we have so many options. We have this sense of privilege people before us were lacking, and because of it there is an anxiety that wasn't there before.

We are told we have to follow all these latest trends and buy what everyone else has. In the process, we lose us. I am no

longer Melissa when I allow these items to become more important than what I need, but I am the Melissa others want to mold me to be.

It is stressful to find yourself in this world of endless possibilities, and having all of these nonessentials doesn't help. I have seen countless of my friends struggling to move apartments and houses this summer, because they simply have so much stuff.

There comes a point, where you open your eyes and you are surrounded by all of these nonessentials and you realize none of it brings you true joy.

I encourage you to go through your own life and throw out the items you seem to hold onto for no reason other than the expectations of others. Living a life of simplicity largely has to do with the external process of de-cluttering one's life, but it's more.

Simplicity not only gets rid of the physical clutter, but it allows your mind to be free.

Rather than worrying about one's "image," living a life of simplicity allows one to discover what parts of their life they value the most. This philosophy gives people a way to create new priorities in their life that actually align with their beliefs.

Melissa Glen is a junior majoring in political science and communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Retired educator looking for an experienced Graduate student with skills in computer entry data and proficiency in Microsoft Word. Please contact Ealin Bartlett at J_E_Bartlett@yahoo.com

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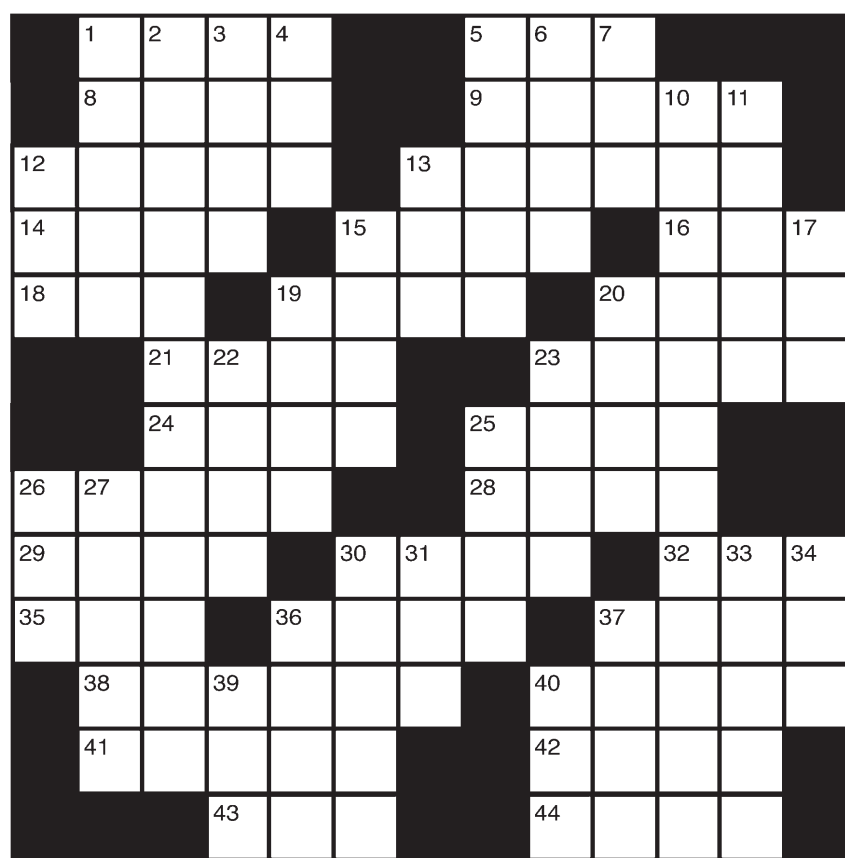
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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



- ACROSS**
- 1 "Trek: Voyager"
 - 5 Polly Holiday's role on "Alice"
 - 8 Portrayer of the Skipper on "Gilligan's Island"
 - 9 Name for a Beatle
 - 12 Zachery Ty ___ of "Home Improvement"
 - 13 "Candid ___"
 - 14 Snakelike fishes
 - 15 "The Twilight ___"
 - 16 ___ out a living; get by
 - 18 Fight result, for short
 - 19 Chess piece
 - 20 Recolors
 - 21 Womanizer
 - 23 "The Man Who ___ There"; Billy Bob Thornton movie
 - 24 Mixon of "American Housewife"
 - 25 Diana Maria ___ of "Man with a Plan"
 - 26 Mrs. Archie Bunker
 - 28 "___ Range"; movie for Kevin Costner and Robert Duvall
 - 29 TV rooms, often
 - 30 "Cold ___"
- DOWN**
- 1 Green cartoon ogre
 - 2 Actor on "Chicago Fire"
 - 3 Word of woe
 - 4 "The ___ & Stimp Show"
 - 5 Role on "Everybody Loves Raymond"
 - 6 Citrus fruit
 - 7 "___ Life to Live"
 - 10 Medical drama series
 - 11 Made of hard, sturdy wood
 - 12 "You ___ Your Life"; Groucho's show
 - 13 Pigeon's cry
 - 15 Yara Shahidi's role on "Black-ish"
 - 17 Suffix for strong and long
 - 19 Buzz of "Laugh-In"
 - 20 Actor Annable
 - 22 Cheerios ingredients
 - 23 Use a towel
 - 25 Role on "The Golden Girls"
 - 26 Begley and Bradley
 - 27 Martin and Cain
 - 30 Actor Robert and his family
 - 31 "___ Given Sunday"; Al Pacino film
 - 33 The Mamas & the ___
 - 34 Golfer Ernie ___
 - 36 "___ Grit"; Matt Damon movie
 - 37 Red Muppet
 - 39 Suffix for bound or comment
 - 40 Winter month: abbr.
- Solution to Last Week's Puzzle**
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | L | E | Y | | | A | T | A |
| O | L | I | V | E | | S | K | I | L |
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| | | | | | | I | D | I | O |
| | | | | | | N | O | R | M |
| G | R | A | P | E | S | | A | R | C |
| P | E | R | I | | | I | D | E | A |
| A | N | T | E | | | L | E | M | O |
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| O | C | T | | | | C | A | T | E |
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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Get adventurous and explore today and tomorrow. Investigate your opportunities. Another gets through where you can't. Call ahead to avoid running all over town.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Have fun with someone sweet today and tomorrow. Avoid controversy, risk or expense. Relax and spend easy time together. Listen more than you speak.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- You're ready to spread your wings and fly today and tomorrow. Listen before you advance, or risk breakdowns. Note emotion as well as logic. Distractions cause mistakes.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Figure out your money today and tomorrow. Review resources, and store provisions for the future. Public obligations interfere with private time. New possibilities stretch old boundaries.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Home draws you in magnetically today and tomorrow. Enjoy domestic arts, crafts and beautification projects. Handle chores and routines. Share the fruits of your labors.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 6 -- Find a quiet, private thinking place. Rest and recuperate today and tomorrow. Slow down and avoid irritation at delays and misunderstandings. Let it all blow over.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Have patience with your partner through tomorrow. Misunderstandings delay the action; don't make wild promises, and do what you said you would. Negotiate and compromise.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Monitor communications through tomorrow. There's a difference of opinion. Beware contradictions and trite solutions. Avoid gossip and rumors. An answer is elusive. Listen quietly.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Teamwork scores through tomorrow. All for one and one for all. Stick to the rules or risk a foul. Avoid controversy or jealousies. Diplomacy pays off.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Expand your physical boundaries and limitations with practice over the next few days. Focus more on actions than talk; words can get tangled.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Bring in the money today and tomorrow. Slow down to untangle misunderstandings before they grow. Update schedules and keep everyone in the loop. Have patience with delays.

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Level:

- 1 2
- 3 4

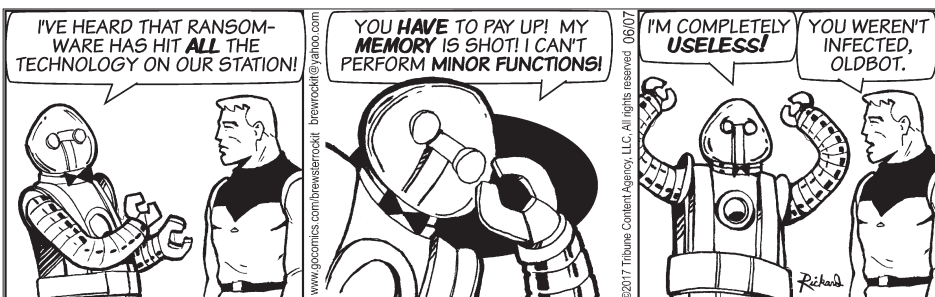
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution from last week

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

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



BEST IN SHOW





Jayvon Ecton (middle with red sneakers) poses for a photo with the rest of the ECU club basketball team. Ecton plays guard for the team. CONTRIBUTED BY JAYVON ECTON

No wasted talent

Club sports offer chance to extend athletic career

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

Playing collegiate sports is a tough task for many high school students heading into college, but talent should never be wasted.

Jayvon "Jay" Ecton, a senior majoring in public relations from Durham, North Carolina, can do nothing but look back on all the good memories he's had while on the East Carolina University Club Basketball team and where it all started.

Being a 5-foot-11-inch, 147-pound guard, Ecton was a little undersized for the school team, yet he still made his attempt. Although he did not make the ECU Pirates basketball team, he was given the opportunity to further play basketball by joining the club team at ECU.

Ecton has been in love with sports since the age of six. Thanks to his family pushing him forward in every sport, he became a versatile athlete.

"I grew up around a lot of sports. First I played football and then my older brother introduced basketball," Ecton said. "After he taught me how to play the game, I took off with it."

Now as a mature athlete, Ecton knows the dos and don'ts on how

to manage his time around sports. At times, he may have to work and practice in the same day but he never loses the dedication to the sport.

"Jay's work ethic is pretty strong when it comes to basketball," teammate Jeremy Duncan said. "I remember during the season, he would show up to practices and games way ahead of time, just to get his mind right beforehand. In practice, he works hard playing against his teammates and uses that same energy during games."

Ecton said that although college programs receive more incentives, there aren't many differences between them and club sports.

"Despite the fact they get to travel more, (and get) free food, it's not so different. They get free stuff, we don't get too many free things," Ecton said.

One thing that the club teams do have to do is pay fees.

"You got dues to pay that's for sure," Ecton said. "We practice late from time to time and sometimes it may affect us academically, but I believe you cannot let that get in your way."

Ecton said he feels that it is his duty to perform well in school and on the court. His work ethic during games is much like his ethic in the classroom.

"I'm a man who believes in getting it all done no matter what," Ecton said. "I don't let working out, my job, or the team hold me back from doing well in school. I just want to make my family proud one day."

Ecton has taken many great things from being a part of the club team. His teammates, he says, have become an extended part of his family. Ecton said he strongly encourages anyone who wants to play basketball to attempt to try out for a club team because no talent should go to waste.

"God has blessed me with some talent that I might have put to waste, but in doing this I get to hopefully touch the lives of my teammates and other people wanting to get out and enjoy the sport, even if they don't get the chance to play on the collegiate level," Ecton said.

Ecton jokingly compared himself to NBA player Russell "Mr. Triple-double" Westbrook.

"He just gets it done on every given night, like I try to do. Westbrook is a bucket, a rebound, an assist and a leader," Ecton said. "That is everything I strive to be when I am on the court."

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>> COLUMN

2017 brings little success

Freshmen provide hope for future baseball seasons



Sean Finnerty
TEC STAFF

East Carolina baseball team's 2017 season was a disappointment. There's no denying that. Defeating No. 1 seed Central Florida twice, along with beating South Florida, to reach the title game of the American Athletic Conference Baseball Championship doesn't make up for the failure to match preseason expectations.

Coming off a season in 2016 where ECU fell a game short of reaching the College World Series, the Pirates made no secret of their goal this year to reach Omaha, Nebraska and win it all.

This optimism within the team was matched by the preseason prognosticators. Baseball America placed ECU at No. 6 in its preseason national rankings, the highest ranking to start a season in school history, while the Pirates also received top-ten preseason national rankings from three other polls. To go along with the national rankings, ECU was picked first in the 2017 AAC preseason poll, which is voted on by the league's eight head coaches.

The team wasn't just expected to do well; individuals were given preseason awards too. Pitcher Evan Kruczynski and outfielder Dwanya Williams-Sutton were both named to multiple preseason All-America teams. Kruczynski was also named preseason AAC co-pitcher-of-the-year, while Williams-Sutton and catcher Travis Watkins were chosen to the all-conference team.

With all those expectations coming into this season, ECU's record of 32-28, good for last in the conference and no invitation to the NCAA Baseball Tournament, is a failure and total letdown. But despite coming woefully short of expectations, the 2017 season still contained hope for the future, namely the progression of the team's young players.

Injuries to key players were one of the main reasons for the Pirates' disappointing season. Two players who were expected to have strong seasons, Kruczynski and Williams-Sutton, both missed large chunks of the season with injuries, while first baseman Bryce Harman sat out at the beginning of the season because of a wrist injury. Pitcher Chris Holba took a line drive to the face in April, forcing him out for over a month as well.

With those players out, freshmen Trey Benton, Jake Agnos, Spencer Brickhouse and Bryant Packard were leaned on to play and produce, which they did. The performances of pitchers Benton and Agnos over the season showed the Pirates shouldn't be too worried about their starting pitching moving forward, even with the graduation of Kruczynski. Benton's 74 strikeouts led the team, while Agnos was second with 64. Their opposing batting averages were also good for second and third on the team, respectively.

The young pitchers have already shown they can handle the burden of being depended on. They were both weekend starters for much of the season, the entire season in Benton's case, and kept their spots even when Kruczynski returned.

They both have shown they can succeed against top opposition as well. On April 14, in perhaps Benton's finest game of the season, the lanky right hander held UCF to two runs on three hits in 7 1/3 innings of work, while also striking out seven Knights.

Not to be outdone, Agnos pitched seven shutout innings against UCF, allowing only two hits in a victory that put ECU in the AAC baseball tournament title game.

But the pitchers weren't the only freshmen to impress. First baseman Spencer Brickhouse began the season as a starter because of Harman's injury, and even when the senior returned, Brickhouse maintained his starter status, sometimes as the designated hitter.

The young slugger has already established himself as possibly the team's best power hitter. Brickhouse's 10 home runs were tied for the team lead, with Watkins, and his .513 slugging percentage was second to only Watkins. But the freshman is not all power, as he was one of four Pirates who batted above .300, finishing the season at .310.

While not as offensively prolific as his fellow freshman, Packard showed he can contribute as well. Making the ninth-most starts out of the team's field players, Packard's .276 batting average was sixth-best for ECU.

The first baseman/ outfielder also showed he is more than capable with his glove. The most spectacular demonstration of his defensive prowess was in an 8-6 victory over Liberty on March 28. Packard helped preserve the win with a miraculous catch, jumping up and reaching over the left field wall to rob a three-run home run in the eighth inning.

So, although the Pirates didn't reach Omaha, or even receive an invitation to Regionals, this past season showed there is still something to look forward to in future seasons. Seniors like Charlie Yorgen, Eric Tyler and Watkins are leaving the team, but the play from the freshmen demonstrated the seniors are leaving the team in good hands.

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>> FOOTBALL

A tale of two walk-ons

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

It's a long road to make it on the roster for the East Carolina Pirates football team. After a three year struggle, East Carolina University seniors Gregory Wells Jr. and Michael Rush now can share their experiences on their battle to make it on the team as walk-ons.

The walk-on/tryout process is tough at ECU. The difficult part about the tryout is appealing to the coaches watching you. For Rush, he had to adapt and change his game when ECU switched head coaches.

"I had a rough experience at first. I tried out my freshman and sophomore year and unfortunately, I did not make the team," Rush said. "Junior year, I tried out and I made past the cuts this time and moved on to practice in the spring."

Coming out of high school, both Wells and Rush said they knew they had the skills to play on the collegiate level but each had different reasons for wanting to take their shot at making the team.

"I just wanted to play football again and show my talent," Wells said. "I just happened to come here though. I almost decided to go to N.C. State, but I wanted

to give this program (ECU) a try."

Whereas Rush said he felt like there was unfinished business with his career and he wanted to continue his efforts on making it to the NFL.

"I have always had a passion for football from a young age and going through high school I never really got the opportunity to be what I could be," Rush said. "I felt like coming to a division one school would help bring my dream to fruition."

Both Rush and Wells said they felt the 2015 and Spring 2016 tryouts did not test the skills and traits the two walk-ons possessed. For the Fall 2016 tryouts held last November, both athletes made it past cuts, finally being able to practice with the team. However, the accompanying lifestyle was not what they expected. Both Rush and Wells were setback having to learn plays and formations, and according to Wells, it felt like another class for them, struggling to stay on pace with the rest of the athletes.

"We started off behind with a lot of things," Wells said. "We had to learn the playbook, catch up to the things that the guys have been doing all year, and you

start off behind physically in workouts because that's something the athletes already on the team are accustomed to."

Though Rush did not believe the whole process was as effective as Wells did, Rush said he knew that in order to make the team, he had to be extraordinary and stand out amongst all the other players hoping to make the team.

"I wasn't really prepared in the right areas, yet I was ready in the weight-room and with my speed," Rush said. "I neglected to work on my game on the field, such as catching the ball and running routes, which is a key trait for the wide receiver position."

Wells learned the key to making it on the roster is "consistency." He said the key to making the team is to go out on the field and be the best you can be every play to get noticed by the coaches.

"You definitely gotta work. It's not easy," said Rush. "A lot of people say they want it and consider going to the gym two to three times a week but that's not enough if you want to be on the team. You have to bust your tail."

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