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Mayor Thomas to step down for NCDOT



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Mayor Thomas announcing his decision to step down.

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

Long time native, alum of ECU and three-term mayor of Greenville, Allen Thomas will step down later this month to accept a position with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

In a city statement released to the media early yesterday morning, Thomas announced that he had accepted a position with NCDOT to become the Executive Director of North Carolina Global TransPark. Thomas will step down from his position as mayor on June 29,

according to the city announcement.

The North Carolina Global TransPark offers logistical assistance to different industries through ports, airports and ground transportation, according to the business' website. The business is located in Kinston, North Carolina.

"I just want to say how much I appreciate the outpouring of support today," Thomas said during a press conference following the announcement. "It's really something that my family appreciates. This hasn't been an easy decision for me."

Thomas said when both the governor and the secretary of transportation called, he decided to step up and take the position.

"My thought was probably to run for another term, but (then) the phone rang and this opportunity came along," Thomas said. "I'm not just a citizen of Greenville; I'm a citizen and a son of eastern North Carolina."

Thomas said he has gotten strong indications from state leadership and legislature

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Orientation 2017 begins

Incoming freshmen visit ECU campus

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

With U.B.E. plastic bags in hand and parents in tow, incoming freshmen will continue to flood East Carolina University's campus as they attend freshmen orientations through July.

Freshmen orientation began yesterday and will end on July 17, according to Justin Janak, director for Student Activities and Organizations.

Karen Smith, associate director of the Office of Student Transitions, said students learn more about their majors, meet with their advisors to finalize their fall class schedules, and meet with orientation assistants while attending freshmen orientation.



Karen Smith

"They have sessions that really tell them about their major, what they can expect college to be like, inside and outside the classroom," Smith said. "They meet in small groups with orientation assistants to get information about what really being a student is like here."

Junior nursing major Emily Wiggins said this is her second year working as an orientation assistant for ECU.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to welcome our new pirates home for a second summer," she said.

Orientation assistants make sure incoming students know they can go to them with questions, concerns or even the need for a friend while at ECU, according to Wiggins.

"The OA staff plays a huge role in introducing new students and parents to college life," Wiggins said. "As OAs, we answer numerous questions about ECU, teach new students ECU's most valued traditions and show incoming freshmen what it means to be an ECU pirate. The impact that my staff and I make on these students is so rewarding and we strive to connect with as many new pirates as we can."

Incoming freshman Margaret Anderson said her first day of orientation was great and she loved her OAs.

"It was definitely a very informative day and everyone was so helpful," Anderson said. "I really loved my orientation assistants; they were so fun and helpful."

The ECU Honors College orientation is also part of the regular orientations this year, according to Smith. Incoming Honors College students either attended orientation Monday and Tuesday, or will attend with incoming EC Scholars on June 21 and 22. Smith said Honors College students will have a couple break out sessions just for them during orientation, but otherwise, the day will be the same as it will be for all other freshmen.

"We try to show them the different organizations that they can join when they get here, just to help them be connected," Smith said.

Over 50 student organizations will be represented in the Student Recreation Center during freshmen orientation, according to Janak.

FUSE College Ministry is one student organization that is signed up for the orientation fairs. This will be its sixth year participating in freshmen orientation, according to FUSE college ministry director Josh Lilley, the college pastor at Ignite Church.

"It's the most effective way to reach and engage with freshmen prior to them coming on campus, so it's an easy

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REMEMBER ORLANDO

Community commemorates Pulse victims

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

A sense of overwhelming grief and heartache could be felt almost instantly in Crave Uptown Restaurant and Bar last night, as people gathered to remember the anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting.

The small and intimate room was dimmed, as 49 candles sat near the front in remembrance of the 49 victims. Around 90 people were in attendance, filling the room to near capacity.

"We wanted it very simple and very remembrance," said James Moretz, one of the owners of Crave, who helped organize the event.

The event, titled "Remember Orlando, An Evening of Reflection," started off with the showing of a video giving insight into the lives of each victim of the attack. The video gave a sense of

humanness to each person, telling the audience more about their passions, education, career and relationships.

Shane Tomlinson, an alumnus of East Carolina University, who was among the victims of the shooting, was mentioned in the video for his talent in a band he performed in called "Frequency."

Following the video, the crowd heard from a number of speakers from the community. Speakers included Moretz and Shawn Michaels from Crave, Mark Rasdorf, associate director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Office at ECU, Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas, Mayor Pro-Tem Kandie Smith, former president of ECU's LGBT student union Jonathan Cockerham, Greenville Police Chief Mark Holtzman, Aaron Lucier, Pitt County AIDS Service Organization board president, Reverend Rod Debs of the Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Greenville, Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman of Congregation Bayt Shalom and Greenville's PFLAG President Sandy Shephard.

Mayor Thomas spoke about community at the event. He said when disasters like the Pulse nightclub shooting occur, it is important to stay united and support one another.

"The faces I saw in tonight's video represent a lost opportunity for people to get to know each other," Thomas said. "When a tragedy like this happens, it is our duty to take a driving passion to make a difference in someone's life. At the Pulse or in a hurricane right here, we are reminded that we are all in this together."

Moretz said as an owner of Crave, he carries the fear of an attack happening

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PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
A rainbow of candles lit in honor of the Pulse shooting victims. A commemorative ceremony was held at Crave Monday night.

Club baseball seniors, coach reflect on championship win

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

After a tough loss in the 2016 championship game to the University of Nevada club team, the East Carolina University club baseball team redeemed itself by capturing the National Club Baseball Association Championship with a walk-off victory in extra innings earlier this month.

Scorer of the winning run, Tyler Sholar, says the "toughest challenge" throughout the 2017 season was knowing they were so close last year before losing to Nevada in the national championship game.

"We knew we had to work twice as

hard to be able to have the opportunity to redeem ourselves this year," Sholar said in an email interview.

This atmosphere was nothing new to Head Coach of the East Carolina club team Ben Fox.

"Most of the starters had been to multiple World Series and with the loss in the National Championship last year, it was tough on them," Head coach Ben Fox said in an email interview.

"But it also motivated them. The toughest challenge for me was to make sure they didn't look past the games that would get us to the championship and also making sure they had the

mental toughness to believe they could win it."

Championship game walk-off hero Nicholas Venditti said this title was what the team worked towards all season and it was fueled by perseverance and a little bit of revenge.

Sholar said winning the championship was "a relief."

"Throughout the season, last year's loss to Nevada was always on our minds," Sholar said. "I think that helped push us even more during practice because we didn't want to feel the same

> BASEBALL page A6

ONLINE

» Trollingwood to host lip sync contest as charity event

» 'I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change' earns 4/5 stars

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Adventure Leadership to host Tar River floats

The East Carolina University Campus Recreation and Wellness is welcoming students to float down the Tar River.

The Adventure Leadership division of ECU CRW will showcase these different offers to students for two to three hours. "Friday Floats" will run every Tuesday and Thursday from June to July. The event lasts from 4-7 p.m.

Paddling down the Tar River with views of Greenville and Washington, North Carolina, will cost students \$10. Students can use kayaks, canoes or paddleboards to enjoy the scenery around the river.

City to pair with residents for 'Swamp Stomp'

The city of Greenville is asking for help from residents in the community to clean the wetlands north of downtown.

The event will be held Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m. at River Park North. Volunteers need to be at least seven-years-old and should be dressed appropriately. Organizers also warn volunteers the cleanup will require individuals to hike about 1.5 miles.

The wetlands at River Park North provide drinking water to city residents along with flood protection and interesting views of wildlife. As part of protecting the ecosystem, the city wants to clean the park with the help of residents.

Brody School of Medicine to host summer camp

The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University will host a summer camp intended for children with cancer, hemophilia and sickle cell disease.

The camp will run this week until Saturday. It is also free to the approximately 75 campers who are involved.

The campers will participate in activities like sailing, swimming, canoeing and crafts. Throughout the camp ECU physicians and nurses will provide 24-hour medical care to the campers.

Office of Equity and Diversity Book Club

The Office of Equity and Diversity Book Club will host a book club to discuss "Hidden Figures".

The club is open to all faculty, staff and students. The first 25 individuals who register with the club will receive a copy of the book. The club will meet today from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in Joyner Library.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

GPD wish list approved

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

In a recent Greenville City Council meeting, the Greenville Police Department presented a list of equipment they would like additional funding for, including old and new technology.

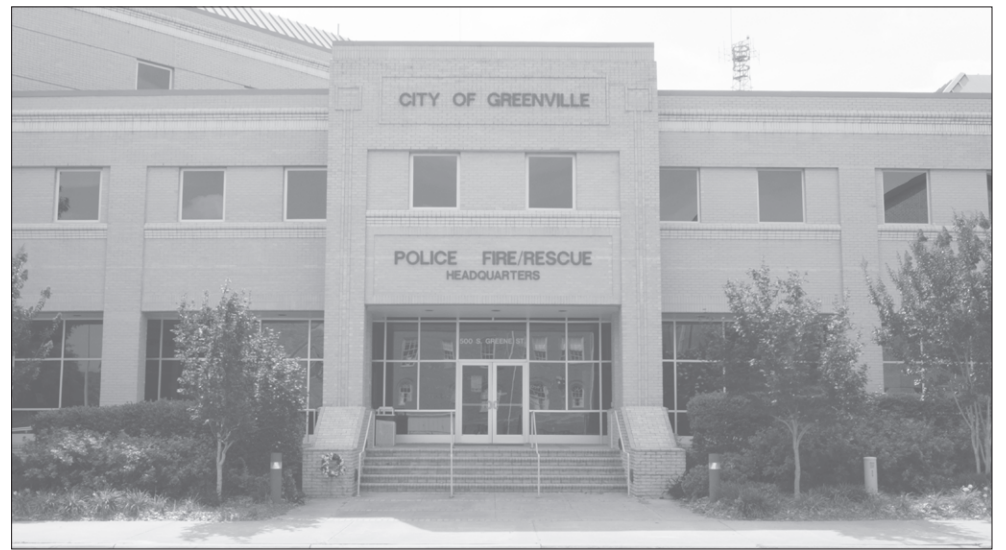


Mark Holtzman

GPD Chief Mark Holtzman said the funding will bring many benefits to the department, as well as the communities it serves. "Our department has a new policy on de-escalation and it covers three important principles—time, distance and barriers," Holtzman said. "Our overall policy for the police department is to use de-escalation techniques whenever possible on a critical situation."

Holtzman said some of the funding will go towards replacing equipment the department already has such as tasers, message boards and a speed trailer to regulate traffic. Other equipment includes newer technology like a 3-D laser forensics scanner and robotic device which will serve useful in crime scene and crash investigations.

Also included was the request for an armored rescue vehicle that will be used in instances of extremely high pressure situations, such as gun violence, hostage situations and bomb threats. Holtzman said the armored rescue vehicle will contribute to the departments de-escalation policies as it will support law enforcement officers in dangerous situations



The Greenville Police Department entrance on Greene Street in the downtown area of the city.

by providing them time, distance and barriers. According to Holtzman, these three principles are the major goal of the new policies and will greatly impact the department, as well as the communities they serve and protect.

"We're living in a time where we need to have the right tools to support your community and your officers when they are doing their job," he said.

Holtzman said the armored rescue vehicle, while not used on a regular basis, is pivotal to protecting the departments constituents and can make life saving differences when it is needed.

"This is something that maybe once a month, every other month, it may get called to a scene for a law enforcement mission," Holt-

zman said. "This is not something you would see on the street everyday. There are certain calls of service that require a rescue vehicle to be brought to the scene."

Holtzman, said he is thankful the city council approved the department's requests for funding old and new equipment, adding that this funding will cover many bases as it pays for a variety of items.

"It's going to enhance our capabilities as a police department to respond to serious incidents and also day to day things like traffic," Holtzman said.

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that they want the Global TransPark to succeed. Thomas also mentioned ECU is an important part to making the Global TransPark successful. Specifically, linking the innovation at the university with global access.

"(Thomas) knows the area, he worked for us, he worked for the (North Carolina Department of Commerce)," said Steve Abbott, assistant director of communications for NCDOT. "That said, the Global TransPark (GTP) needs somebody who is enthusiastic and can sort of sell the area for the benefits it offers companies."

Thomas said Greenville is his home and he has poured his heart and soul into the city. Thomas did predict after he officially steps down from the mayor position, he will continue to work on public boards and commissions with the city of Greenville.

Mayor Thomas spent much of

his time interacting with different groups around town. Throughout his years serving as mayor, Thomas could be spotted at Sup Dogs restaurant, ECU football games and all over town meeting residents.

Bret Oliverio, owner of Sup Dogs said he has a good relationship with the mayor. Thomas is a regular at the restaurant and Oliverio described him as a "go-getter". Oliverio added Thomas is a "people-person" who loves to interact with the community.

Thomas, who grew up in eastern North Carolina, attended East Carolina University. While at ECU, Thomas, who graduated with a business degree, was elected to be president of the Student Government Association, according to his city biography.

ECU's alumni association wished Thomas well in his new position in a statement released by ECU News Services yesterday.

"The ECU Alumni Association wishes Mayor Thomas the best of luck in his new leadership role with

North Carolina Global Transpark," said Heath Bowman, president of the ECU Alumni Association.

Along with Sup Dogs and ECU, Greenville Police Department Chief Mark Holtzman said he was excited for Thomas, but also took time to remember how helpful the mayor had been.

"He helped me in my transition to the city and connected me with the right people in the community that I needed to be connected with," Holtzman said.

Holtzman said Thomas was both a strong advocate for the department and worked closely with GPD during Hurricane Matthew.

"During the past budget cycle we asked for an increase in staffing and (Thomas) helped me sell that and explain that to the public," Holtzman said.

Following the mayor's decision, questions about who would fill the position, and how and when that vacancy would be filled were raised.

According to David Davis, Pitt County Board of Elections director,

the mayor's position for the city of Greenville was already on the ballot for this November's election.

The City Attorney's Office explained that North Carolina General Statute 160A-63 will provide a detailed template to help the city fill the vacant mayor's position. Mayor Pro-Tem Kandie Smith will fulfill the duties of mayor during city council meetings after his resignation. The council is required to fill the mayor position within a reasonable amount of time, which could come in July or August, according to the City Attorney's Office statement.

Smith, said while temporarily taking over the duties of mayor is a natural progress, it does bring some nerves with the change. Smith, along with Thomas, didn't comment on who would be a strong candidate for the mayor position. However, she said to be a successful mayor a candidate must be community oriented and approachable.

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like the Orlando massacre with him every day.

"Every night that we have a function, every day those doors are open or not open, there is always a fear that it may happen," Moretz said. "Do I fear for it, yes, but I'm not afraid for it at all."

Holtzman spoke about this reality in his presentation. He said while it is possible for violence to occur anywhere, the people of Greenville should take comfort that the police have protocols in place if something

like Orlando did occur.

"My role as a police chief is to let the community know we are here," Holtzman said. "Let us worry about what's to come...we are trained, we are professional, we plan for these kinds of things."

He said the department has been working with the businesses to target places in the city that can be a threat to violence.

Rasdorf also spearheaded the vigil and march which took place last year at Town Common in honor of the shooting victims. He said these lives could not be forgotten with time.

"The tragedy at Pulse was so

significant, that we couldn't just let last year's vigil stand alone," Rasdorf said. "To mark one year since the attack and lives lost, in many ways it was as important this year as it was a year ago."

There were many students in the crowd, including Cockerham, a junior communication and political science major. As the former LGBTSU president, Cockerham said it is crucial for everyone to take this event and turn it into action.

"Tonight I leave you with a message, we will not allow hatred to consume us. We will love, accept, diversify and show

peace," said Cockerham.

People at the event were encouraged to donate money to the LGBT Community Center of Central Florida. According to Rasdorf, the event raised \$171 to go to the organization.

Many of the speakers stressed the importance of sharing the background of these victims and keeping their memories alive.

"Those were real lives," said Lucier. "They had laughter, they had tears, they had good days and bad. They had a full life."

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East Carolina University
STUDENT MEDIA

TEC12092014RM

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PLUS
MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

TODAY

Umbrella Market

Five Points Plaza
5 p.m.

Yoga in the Park

Town Common
6 p.m.

Wine Down Wednesday

Pure Barre
7 p.m.

Jamnifesto Series

Trollingwood
7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Open Mic Night

Professor O'Cool's
7:30 p.m.

Guided Meditation Class

Sage & Stone
Restorative Health
7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Barks & Brews

Trollingwood
5 p.m.

The Rest of Us live

AJ McMurphy's
9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Pokemon Free League Play

Blue Ox Games
11 a.m.

SUNDAY

Pitt Community College Symphony Orchestra

Town Common
7 p.m.

MONDAY

Summer Trivia Contest

Mellow Mushroom
8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Unwined

The Painted Peacock
6:30 p.m.

Trivia

Fire American Tavern
8 p.m.

Trivia

Carolina Ale House
8 p.m.

DJ works with aspiring artists

Cookie Brower
TEC STAFF

With a down to earth tone in his voice, Greenville native DJ Born Finesser spoke about bringing the community and individuals together by giving them a variety of skills they need to interact in the workplace.

After six months of planning, DJ Born Finesser is ready to open the doors for new artists to showcase their talents on Young Carolina Radio.

JR Freeman, better known as DJ Born Finesser, is starting a radio showcase of young, unsigned and independent artists all on one platform. In 2015, he began by DJing small parties and events, until his skill and clientele took off.

"I feel that I am a leader at heart, so while watching my male family members control the crowd with music, I was just really intrigued and decided to continue with it," Freeman said.

At Young Carolina Radio, he hopes to create a brotherhood among young aspiring artists. Freeman says by teaching the artists how to network and make the right connections, they can rise as a whole instead of pushing each other down to make it to the top.

"Artists won't help each other because they are thinking they're in competition with each other instead of working together," Freeman said. "By starting a show, it forces them to promote their single and all the singles on the show."

Freeman said he believes by launching Young Carolina Radio, the artists will be able to promote themselves, and the business, while working together.

"I just really want to give everybody a shot because there is a lot of good talent and music out here," Freeman said.

Freeman currently has around 90 artists



DJ Born Finesser performs his mixes. DJ Born Finesser, also known as JR Freeman, aims to help artists. J'KEYAH HULL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

and counting sending their information in to be a part of the launch.

He said he believes there is a lot of potential in North Carolina artists today.

"It is very amazing for them to have their moment," Freeman said. "I plan on throwing modern music in as well, so it won't be boring and spice it up when the songs play on the radio."

Freeman said he feels some artists need help and need to gain experience in communicating with the appropriate people and skills to make it big.

"It is important that everything is popping, especially for artists because you never know who is behind the screen reading or listening," Freeman said.

He added that many skills needed to pros-

per in the future cannot be acquired through cell phone communication.

"I want to keep it going as often as possible to enhance networking among people. Talking to people on social media is very different than talking face to face," Freeman said.

Social media is at the center of the movement, according to Freeman.

"Every social media platform plays its role," Freeman said. "Since I have the versatility of all these platforms, it helps me get the word out for any event. Greensboro is the tweet capital. I feel that we are very Instagram-based here, so I just post it everywhere."

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WeatherSTEM increases awareness

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

Rain or shine, East Carolina University will remain proactive and aware of the ever changing weather of the Greenville area thanks to a new weather station on campus.

The online WeatherSTEM platform was installed on March 30. The weather stations' instrument sensor suite is located on top of the Willis Building, where it can be seen from the south side of the building. The campus skycam is located on top of Tyler Hall where the camera points south and overlooks the Athletic Complex.



Lauren Mink

WeatherSTEM provides real-time weather readings, collects data, photos and videos as well as sends automatic weather updates on its Facebook and Twitter accounts or the WeatherSTEM app. WeatherSTEM is used by different groups across the university for safety and research purposes. The system also provides a library of free research, blog posts and meteorology courses for the public.

The station, primarily brought to ECU for research efforts, will also aid the university administration when they are making decisions on classes and events that may be negatively impacted by weather. With the technology in place, the station has already made an impact as the equipment warned of the lightning that lead to the cancellation of spring commencement.

Lauren Mink, ECU's continuity and emergency planner said the new weather station will

continue to contribute to ECU by helping the administration make weather related decisions.

"As a trained meteorologist, I could not be more happy than to have our own weather station on campus," Mink said. "This new tool is a resource that can assist the university in making informed decisions for the ECU community to be a safer place in regards to hazardous weather events."

Mink said the new weather station will benefit decision making processes by ECU.

"The station also adds to the repertoire of decision support technology that ECU uses to stay informed of hazardous weather, which is part of being a StormReady community," Mink said.

Mink predicted the WeatherSTEM technology will be used by several student groups, the athletic department and others to prepare for oncoming instances of interfering weather.

"We anticipate that Athletics, Student Recreation and Wellness and Facilities Services will be utilizing the alerts for Heat Index and Wet Bulb Globe Temperature to better manage student, faculty, and staff wellness when working or playing outside," Mink said. "This will also be used for future events such as move-in, Carolina Kickoff, football and other athletic games (and) outdoor events such as Barefoot on the Mall."

The benefits of such technology on campus are widespread, but include weather awareness and safety as well as opportunities to educate, according to Mink.

"Putting this information into the hands of every student, faculty and staff member can and will allow for better and more educated decisions about their day-to-day life," Mink said. "The weather station can provide a myriad of infor-

mation that will contribute to keeping the ECU community safe."

Mink said Greenville's history of inconsistent weather is to thank for the creation of a new weather station. Previously, the data the school used came from the Pitt-Greenville airport which is located across town from campus.

"Having the weather station on campus gives a better sense of what's occurring right here, right now," Mink said.

Mink said the WeatherSTEM system was not originally founded as a weather alert system, but now that the technology has advanced, anyone can make a free account to receive updates and alerts

"Interestingly enough, WeatherSTEM was founded as a platform to infuse K-12 STEM curriculum with live data," Mink said. "It wasn't until just recently that WeatherSTEM was expanded to include lightning detection, forecasting and alert notifications to assist with public safety."

Mink said she encourages ECU students to use the data gathered from the station and sky camera and though Mink is not aware of any paid jobs or internships available at the station, she said the equipment will offer many research opportunities for ECU faculty and students.

Mink said the ECU Department of Geography hopes to use some of the data collected by the new equipment to aid with research being funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation to study weather patterns in southeastern United States.

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ORIENTATION

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way to get a foot in the door in regards to letting them know who you are as an organization, letting them know that we exist and that there's a community waiting for them before they even step foot on the campus," Lilley said.

Lilley said FUSE engages with more than 500 students at orientation every summer, and passes out flyers to even more incoming students.

"Every year, the first FUSE of the semester, we always have over a hundred first time students, of which probably 90 percent are freshmen, so there's definitely a strong return on that, of reaching students," Lilley said. "Every student that fills out their contact information, we send them a couple emails, as well as a couple text messages letting them know what's going on."

ECU club sports, campus resources and other ECU tables are also set up during the orientation fairs, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Office.

Mark Rasdorf, associate director for the LGBT Resource Office, said as part of student affairs, the Resource Office is a resource for the entire campus: students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents.

"Part of our mission is to increase student involvement and offer support to all students and we believe that by our presence... we engage students and it's been proven that student engagement increases student retention, which increases the likelihood that they will enjoy their time here at ECU and graduate as a pirate which is what we all want," Rasdorf said.



(From left) Eric Evans, Kyle Taylor and Ja'Carus Hamilton talk to Kevin Myrick about Club Basketball. PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Incoming freshman Emory Trigg said he's really excited to come to ECU in the fall after experiencing orientation.

"It's just the people are awesome," Trigg said.

Trigg said it took his orientation group a little while to get to know each other, but after they did it was a great day.

"It took us a while to get talking, and one of the kids was like, 'it's extremely awkward in here' but then we got talking and they're all really cool," he said.

Aside from freshmen and Honors College orientation, transfer student orientation took place May 11 and 12, and according to Smith, is different than freshmen orientation because

the students have already experienced college.

"(Their orientation) is more about what is available at ECU as far as campus resources and how ECU may have been different than the institution they were coming from," she said.

Smith said overall, orientations are to help incoming students "feel comfortable" about attending ECU.

"It makes them feel a part of the pirate nation, it helps them find their way around," Smith said. "They learn a little bit more about what to expect and it starts them making friends and getting involved and really getting engaged on campus."

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OUR VIEW

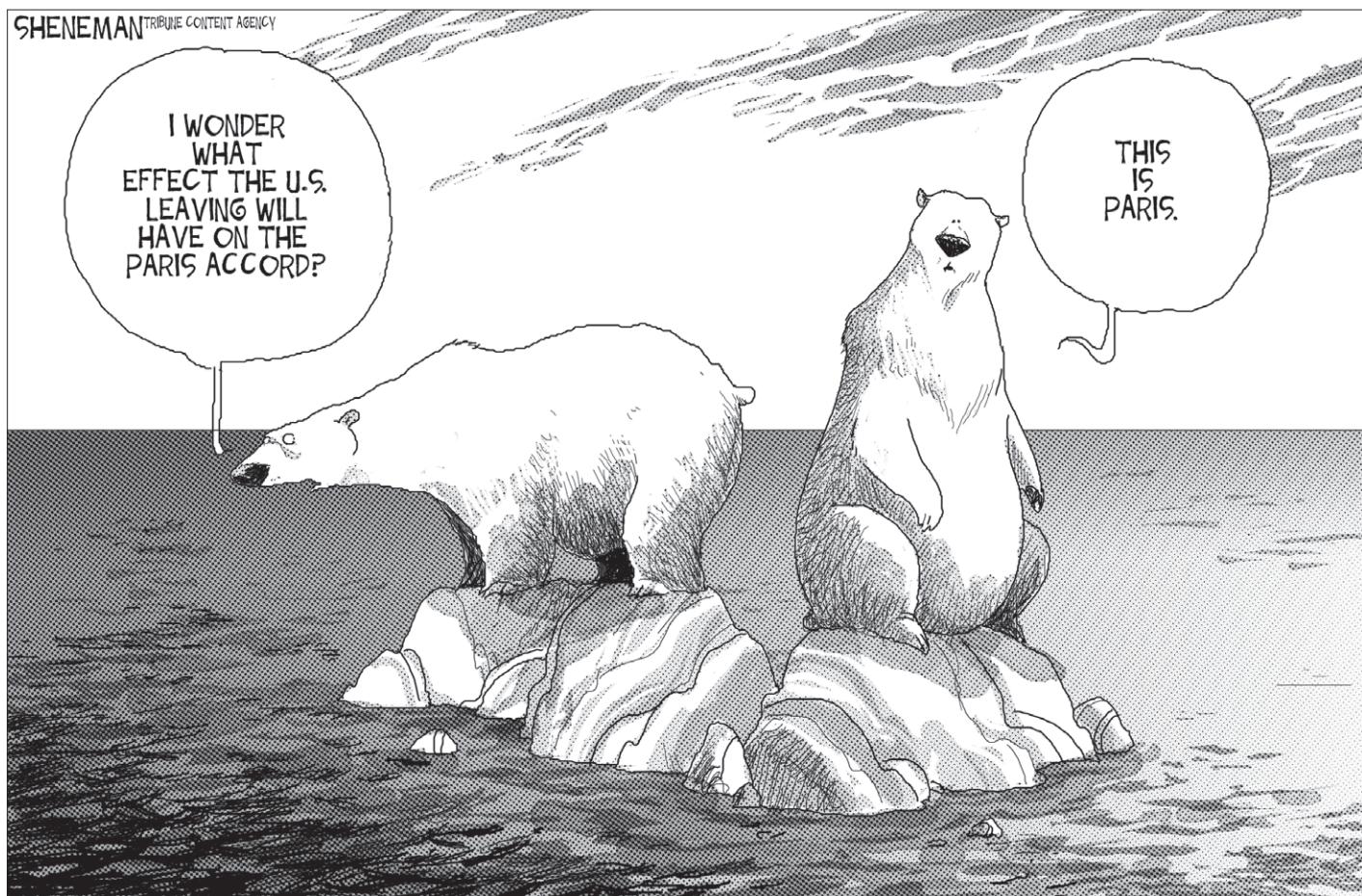
Body cameras show signs of brighter future

Greenville Police Department has made an incredible step in community policing by mandating that all officers will have body cameras by mid-June. Although GPD has had body cameras for several years, not every officer was issued one. These cameras, along with the 'Cops and Barbers' program, are all part of a campaign to build a stronger relationship with the Pitt County community.

The call for body cameras on police officers dates back to the aftermath of the shootings of Eric Garner and Michael Brown in 2014. Former President Barack Obama called for funding to provide cameras and training for communities across the nation. Several states implemented the cameras and various studies found that use of violence dropped anywhere from 53-59 percent, and complaints against officers dropped from 65-88 percent, according to the University of Florida and the Rialto Police Department.

In a post-Ferguson world, where police-community relations are testy at the best of times and deadly at the worst, we, the Editorial Staff at the East Carolinian, praise the GPD for this move for accountability and hope that more police departments follow suit.

Some may claim that these cameras infringe on police's privacy. However, these cameras allow police officers to learn from their mistakes. In the event of a tragedy, they also expedite any legal proceedings and allow for public clarity of police actions. The cameras will also take the weight off of bystanders from putting themselves in harm's way in order to film incidents.



Pointlessly building bridges

Surpressing hardship while comforting the majority is wrong



Andy Li
TEC STAFF

Building bridges. That's the goal of every discussion, right? Republican and Democrat, Capitalist and Communist, Christian and Atheist, Peanut Butter and Jelly, even if we never agree, we can find common ground.

But in today's somewhat post-apocalyptic climate, a discussion that is constantly forced upon the public is between social activists and neo-Nazis or the "alt-right". This conversation, however, marks the shallowness of "building bridges."

We share photos of cops hugging black children but ignore the very real issue of police brutality. We applaud Trump for meeting with Islamic leaders but ignore his ban of Muslim refugees. We share videos of the 'free hugs' guy but turn a blind eye to fascism, racism and sexism because they cannot be fixed with a heartwarming video with acoustic guitar playing in the background.

The oppressed are forced to get along with their oppressors in the name of community, and tyranny gets renamed a different "world view" or "opinion." The black, Islamic, LGBT, disabled communities are told they have to be patient, that peace is more important than revolt. But why do we tell oppressed people to be patient instead of telling oppressors, 'stop'?

Building bridges is as useless as it is dangerous. It is the comfort blanket of apathetic moderates who force oppressed people to be patient and forgiving towards people who want to eradicate them. Open dialogue between differing opinions is key to intellectualism, but I should not be forced to argue with a racist homophobe about whether I have the right to exist. The desire to commit genocide is not a differing opinion, it is a threat.

Conversations, open dialogues, building bridges, all of them are pointless when you cannot view the other person as a human being. Every time we ask

an African American to stand up to an angry racist in the middle of Walmart, every time we ask a Muslim to confront a heckler on a train, every time we ask a trans woman to retort against an assailant, we are asking them to risk their lives. And every time we ask oppressed people to have an "open conversation" with their oppressors on a college stage in front of hundreds, we are putting their attack on display, and forcing the oppressed to be perfect- any slip up, any flared temper, any stumble of words will be viewed as "losing" and their fight for their right to exist gets a little bit harder.

I would love to live in a world where anyone could be convinced that someone who is of a different race, sexuality or religion is still a human being, but that world is not the world we live in. You cannot build bridges on unsteady ground. Sometimes, the best thing to do is walk away.

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

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Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Don't Mind Matt

In a quiet region of North Carolina with scars of injustice and economic downturn, a passerbyer may not even notice one of the state's largest academic institutions.

East Carolina University lays in a part of eastern North Carolina starved of the same glamor and excitement which fills Raleigh and Charlotte, North Carolina.

ECU brings eastern North Carolina pride by uniting communities under purple and gold apparel. It gives a region of the state significance when it otherwise might get forgotten. While jobs, industry and entertainment boom in other regions of the state, the coastal plains which encompasses much of eastern North Carolina lays dormant.

At the center of the coastal plains is ECU. A university since the 1960s and a hub of education since the early 20th century. One of the state's largest institutions in both student attendance and appropriations, ECU is a major state university, but its reputation has never reflected that.

To many North Carolinians and individuals around the academic world, ECU has always been seen as a second-tier institution. A place for average students to go for great parties, easy classes and quick access to the beach. However, ECU is quickly becoming the next top-tier institution on par with the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and Duke University. In a state flooded with highly respected, recognized and prestigious academic institutions, making waves is hard, but ECU doesn't seem to have trouble.

In a time of year where admitted students take their first steps onto their new home, it's a very important time to educate the public on not only how ECU is an up-and-coming institution, but also why the university should get more respect.

"It's a very important time to educate the public on not only how ECU is an up-and-coming institution, but also why the university should get more respect."

Before that, let me caveat all my statements about UNC Chapel Hill and Duke. Understand that as an out-of-state student, I have no vested interest in the UNC-Duke rivalry. While friends and significant others cry, yell or shield their eyes from the horror, I am the delightful Switzerland in this ongoing battle.

With that in mind, ECU is a university with rockets attached at both sides. Over the coming years, ECU could quickly become a top-tier school competing on the same level as UNC and Duke for three reasons.

First, the university's investment in its campus and student body. In the last three years ECU has invested hundreds of millions of dollars into new dormitories, student centers and building renovations to give this institution the tools to succeed. As one administration official told me, the money ECU is putting into its campus isn't for profits, it's for students. For example, consider either of the new student centers on the health sciences or main campus. Both buildings feature cutting edge technology and state-of-the-art meeting spaces that aren't seen at most other institutions around the state. Having a dedicated student center for ECU's medical campus is a fact most universities in North Carolina and around the country can't brag about.

Second, ECU is investing heavily in the brightest and best. In Chancellor Cecil Staton's first year, he made a commitment to expanding the university's Honor College. Partnered with some of the best tools in the state, these geniuses' potential is hard to grasp.

Third, let's dispel the party school rumors. ECU parties just as much as any other university. This institution is home to more than 29,000 students. ECU is one of the largest major institutions in the state, so of course college students will party, but compared to other universities not nearly as bad. As a reporter who has spent the better part of three years covering university and city crime in Greenville, I can assure anyone that based on crime or violations statistics from ECU, UNC Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University, that this institution is pretty tame.

Schools such as UNC Chapel Hill and Duke, who have access to millions to fund their endeavours, brag about their success and build their brands. ECU is very different. This university does have a very loyal alumni network, but much of the success at ECU has come from hard work.

At each turn, it seems as though ECU can't shake an unfounded rumor. No matter the accomplishment, the breakthrough or success of their students, ECU is constantly dogged by the stories of a few bad eggs.

It's time to recognize the direction ECU is going, respect it and join in on the push to become a national and globally recognized university as Chancellor Staton would say.

Look at the changes going on around ECU and a new student can't help but be excited that they aren't just joining Pirate Nation, but quite possibly the next best school in North Carolina and the United States.

Matthew Prensky is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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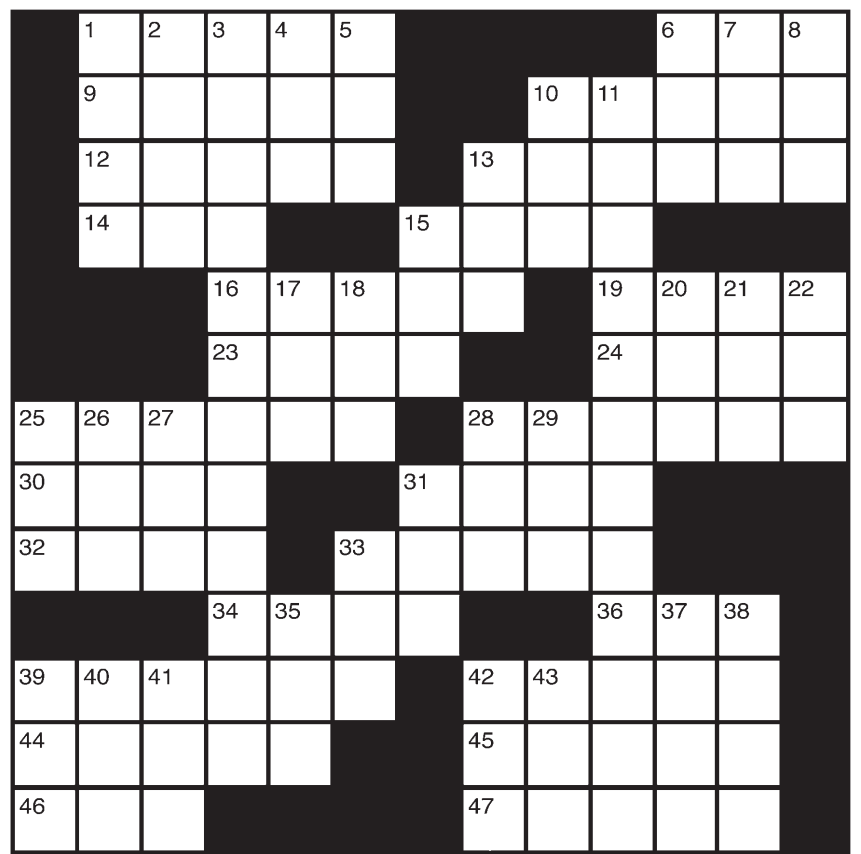
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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



ACROSS

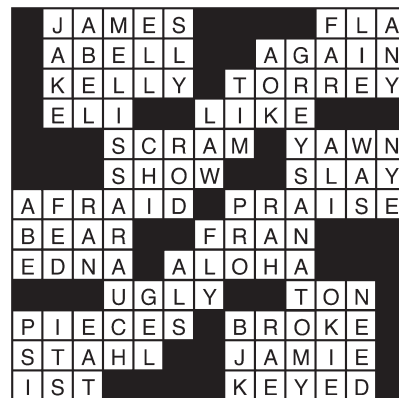
- 1 Gartner or Brolin
- 6 Setting for "The Golden Girls":
abbr.
- 9 "___ for Adano"; Gene Tierney
movie
- 10 "Never Say Never ___"; 007 film
- 12 "Live! with ___"
- 13 ___ DeVitto of "Chicago Med"
- 14 Actor Wallach
- 15 "What I ___ About You"
- 16 "Get lost!"
- 19 Sign of sleepiness
- 23 "That '70s ___"
- 24 Kill
- 25 "Who's ___ of Virginia Woolf?"
- 28 Extol; laud
- 30 Yogi or Smokey
- 31 ___ Fine; role on "The Nanny"
- 32 ___ Garrett; Charlotte Rae's role
on "The Facts of Life"
- 33 Greeting from Don Ho
- 34 "___ Betty"
- 36 2,000 pounds
- 39 "Life in ___"
- 42 "2 ___ Girls"

- 44 Lesley of "60 Minutes"
- 45 Actor Farr
- 46 Suffler for cartoon or balloon
abbr.
- 47 All ___ up; very excited

DOWN

- 1 Role on "Two and a Half Men"
- 2 Cain's brother
- 3 Actress on "The Big Bang
Theory"
- 4 Building wing, often
- 5 Stallone, to friends
- 6 "Master and Commander: The
___ Side of the World"; Russell
Crowe adventure movie
- 7 "___ to Me"; Tim Roth series
- 8 "___ Given Sunday"; Pacino film
- 10 Fine; in good shape
- 11 Medical drama series
- 13 Allen or Daly
- 15 "___ & Order: SVU"
- 17 Actor McBride
- 18 Stewart or Serling
- 20 Actress Wong of "American
Housewife"
- 21 "How the West ___ Won"
- 22 "Bill ___; the Science Guy"
- 25 Actor Vigoda
- 26 Nourished
- 27 Galloped
- 28 "Semi-___"; Will Ferrell movie
- 29 Cheerleader's cry
- 31 "I'll ___ Away"
- 33 Molinaro and Roker
- 35 Become firm
- 37 "___ from Muskogee"; Merle
Haggard song
- 38 "___ for Speed"; Aaron Paul film
- 39 Fraternity letter
- 40 "Leah Remini: ___ All Relative"
- 41 "Please Don't ___ the Daisies"
- 42 Monogram for tennis champ Ms.
King
- 43 "Norma ___"; Sally Field movie

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle



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HOROSCOPES

Aries
(March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9
-- Teamwork provides big
rewards, especially today.
Your suspicions and intuition
get confirmed. Unexpected
benefits arise from the
groundwork you laid earlier.

Taurus
(April 20-May 20)
-- Today is an 8 --
Professional discipline gets
rewarded in surprising ways.
More work is required. A
difficult situation is making
you stronger. Your influence
is spreading.

Gemini
(May 21-June 20)
-- Today is an 8 --
Do the homework for a high
score. Your hard work pays
off; so get moving. Important
people are watching. Let
them see the real you.

Cancer
(June 21-July 22)
-- Today is an 8
-- A beneficial development
hits your shared financial
accounts. Your team helps
you advance. Work together
to get farther. Love gives
you strength.

Leo
(July 23-Aug. 22)
-- Today is an 8 --
You and your partner make
an amazing discovery. Plant
now and harvest later. Be
willing to get your hands
dirty. Take advantage of an
opportunity.

Virgo
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9
-- Energize your exercise
routine. Discipline with
fitness goals pays off in
lovely and unexpected ways.
Pour passion into your work.
Have fun with it.

Libra
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
-- Today is a 7 --
You're especially lucky in
romance. Show how you
feel through your actions.
Spend time and effort on
another's behalf. Share your
love in word and deed.

Scorpio
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
-- Today is a 7 -- Put
in the extra effort on a home
project. Discover forgotten
treasures and unexpected
surprises. Restore or repur-
pose something from the
past. Enjoy time with family.

Sagittarius
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
-- Today is an 8 --
Discipline with creative and
intellectual projects reveals
unexpected plot twists.
Pursue these new turns
where they take you. Chalk
up impressive results.

Capricorn
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
-- Today is a 9 -- The
early bird gets the worm. A
bright idea gets profitable.
Go for it! Take advantage
of a windfall opportunity to
gather a fat harvest.

Aquarius
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18) --
Today is a 9 -- Your
charms cannot be denied.
Steady efforts propel a per-
sonal project, and others can
be persuaded to contribute.
One person's ideas spark
another's.

Pisces
(Feb. 19-March 20) --
Today is a 6 -- Update
and revise your plans.
Think of how you can take
advantage of an unexpected
situation. Consider the ram-
ifications and consequences.
Insights and epiphanies
abound.

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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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		2	8	6			5
4					1		
8		5	4		6		
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	6			2	7	9	
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Level:



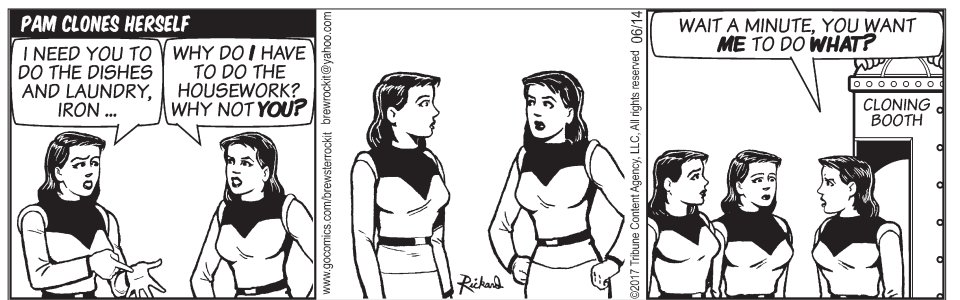
Complete the grid
so each row, column
and 3-by-3 box
(in bold borders)
contains every digit,
1 to 9. For strategies
on how to solve
Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution from last week

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

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



BEST IN SHOW



ACCESS DENIED

Students, athletes debate access to athletic facilities

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

While some students come to East Carolina University with hopes to lead a better, more active lifestyle, it can be tough to stay in shape. With the thousands of dollars that students pay towards the school, some students wonder why they do not have access to the special workout facilities on campus.

ECU hosts many sports, ranging from football to golf, and provides its athletes with specialized equipment. Some students, such as senior Gregory Wells, who recently made the ECU football team as a walk-on, say they believe the school doesn't provide the same facilities for regular students that pay tuition every year as they do for athletes.

"I do think us regular students should be able to access some of the weight rooms, pools or training facilities because we are the ones paying for it at the end of the day," Wells said.

However, senior Michael Rush, a fellow recent walk-on to the football team, had a different perspective on how facilities available for athletes should be used on campus.

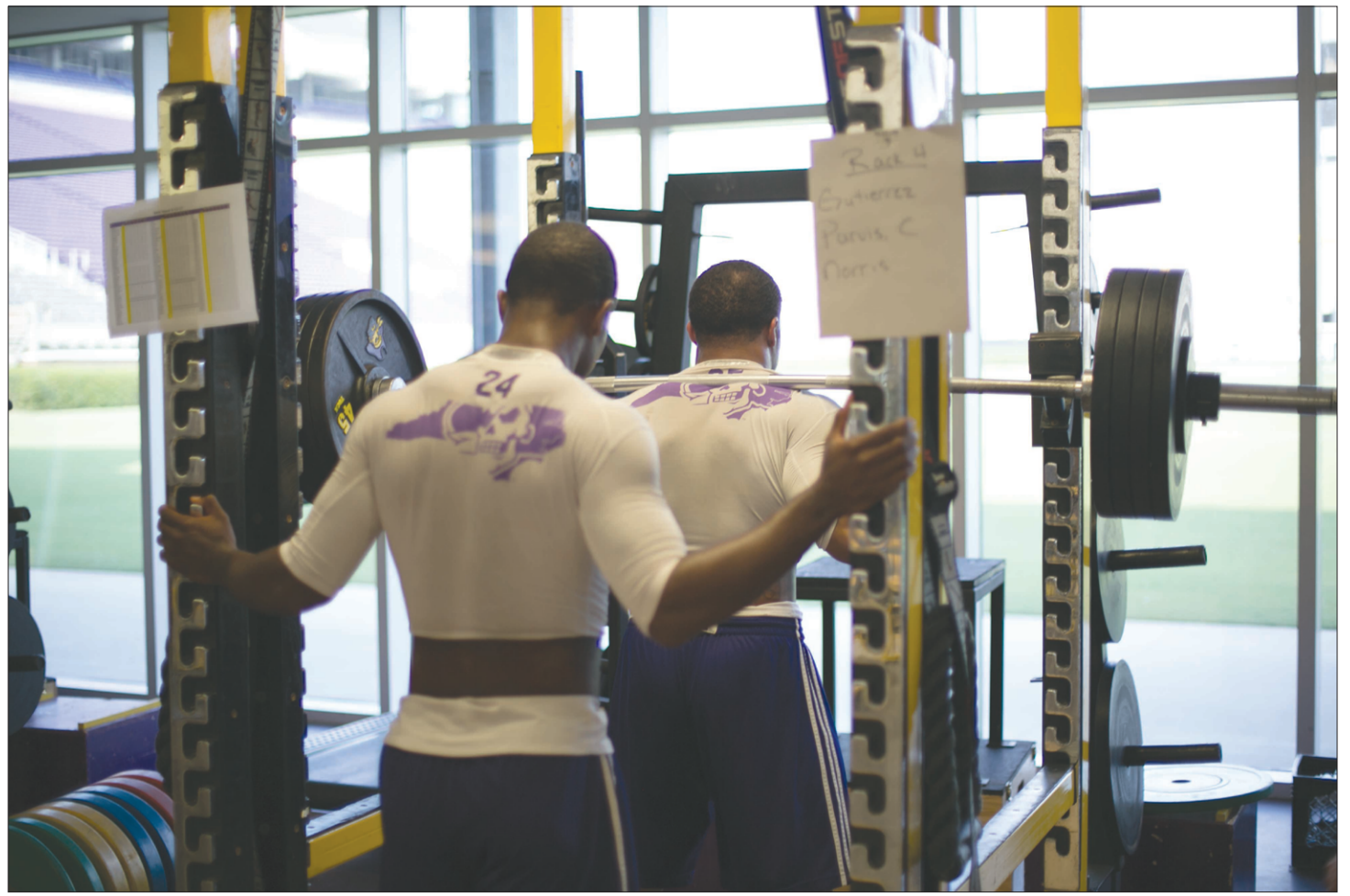
Rush said depending on how knowledgeable the students are with how they want to work out, they should be able to use the same facilities, but added "the facilities such as the weight room for the athletes are built more for them than regular students. That's more or less their workplace."

Giving access to the average students who were not lucky enough to be a part of these school teams or club sport teams, may have an advantage, according to Rush.

"Actually seeing what the Division One athletes use, it could definitely help open them up for working hard towards the next level or just pushing them to be in the best overall shape they can be in," Rush said.

However, Rush says as an athlete, he understands the other side as well.

"This is something the athletes work for by playing games and bringing revenue



ECU football player Derrell Scott prepares to spot a teammate at the squat rack in the Murphy Center, which houses specialized equipment for athletes.

to the university," he said. "It is kind of what they deserve."

According to Wells, there are many places on campus that could easily support the average student wanting to be more fit or practicing certain sports. The campus contains softball fields, batting cages, therapy rooms, weight rooms and pools, and these facilities may contain other resources that could benefit a student wanting to rehab from a tough workout, according to Wells.

"Making some of these things accessible to students would benefit them a little more because, in essence, we get more bang for our buck," Wells said. "The gyms offered are good but sometimes I want to do more with the amount of freedom I got."

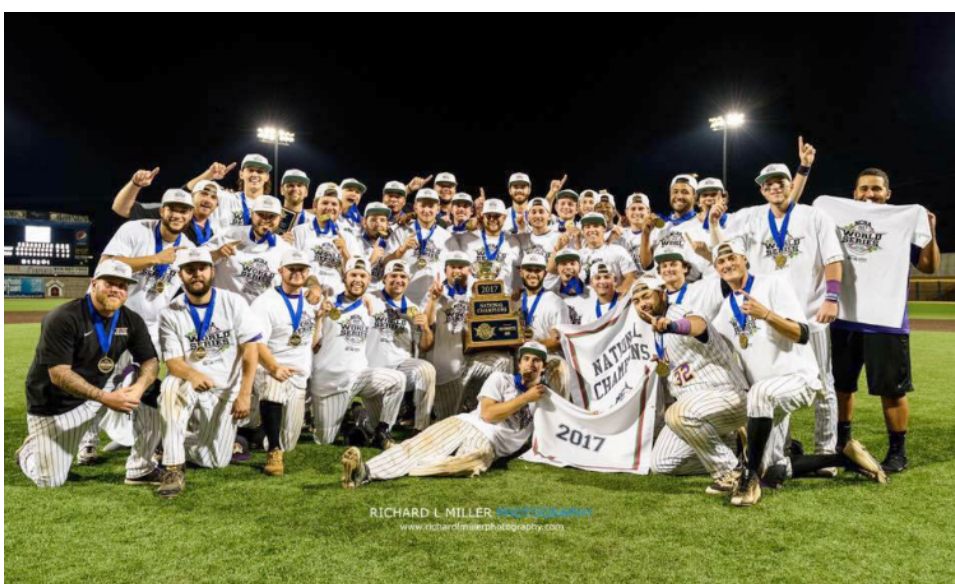
While Wells said he believes these facilities on campus should be open to the regular student body, Rush said he thinks these facilities for the athletes, are something they have earned.

"I think overall this is kind of a privilege for the athletes," Rush said. "Not saying the

athletes should be seen as better, but those are facilities they worked hard for in high school to be able to use...on a college level."

Rush added that while he understands athletes are entitled to the workout and training areas, he sees a benefit in the university offering an option for students looking to work with more advanced equipment to use the facilities available on the athletics side of campus.

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



The East Carolina University Club Baseball Players pose for a picture with their newly-won trophy.

CLUB

continued from A1

disappointment. Our motto was, "Don't look back when the season ends, and say I could I have worked harder."

Venditti said in the championship game against the UCF, head coach of the East Carolina club team, Ben Fox, told players the key to winning the game was all about getting hits to send the runners home and making the pitcher uncomfortable. Sholar knew everyone on ECU's team knew that they had the talent to compete and win.

"Our team was very strong in all aspects. We had three returning All-American pitchers in Tanner Duncan, Hatty (Hatteras Brooks) and Garb (Sean Garbarino)," Sholar said. "Our biggest strength as a team was our depth. From the starters to the backups, there wasn't any difference in talent level or experience."

The game against UCF was a long, hard fought battle that went into extra innings. Heading into the tenth inning, things began to fall in place as the pitcher, Duncan, was able to close out the top of the inning. Great defense led to the miraculous sequence of events in the final inning.

" We knew we had to work twice as hard to be able to have the opportunity to redeem ourselves this year "

— Tyler Sholar

"Both pitchers in the championship game were throwing great," Venditti said. "We couldn't seem to get a run across then finally, Tyler managed to stretch a single into a double and I was able to line one over the shortstop's head. It was a great feeling to be able to get that hit for my team and our fans."

Venditti says as he came up to the plate, with runners in scoring position and the weight of a championship on his back, his only thoughts were to keep calm and get on base.

"I knew right then I had to win the game for our team," Venditti said. "I took the first couple pitches and then turned on an inside fastball, I was rounding first when I realized that our team just won the national championship. It was an unreal feeling."

Even with all the success the club team has achieved, Venditti says he and his teammates don't feel

bittersweet about not playing on ECU's NCAA Division I baseball team.

"The special thing about our team is that we have talent that could play at the Division One level, but it just did not happen to some of the guys," Venditti said. "That does not stop us from playing the game we love and working hard every day to reach the goal of a National championship."

Sholar, who is also president of the club baseball team, said it does not bother him when people try to discredit club teams and the championships they earn.

"Everyone who is on a club team is out there to continue playing the sport they love at the highest level they can compete at," Sholar said. "I'm out there giving all I have for my brothers on the field with me and for the game I love, not for anyone else. At the end of the day, that's all that matters."

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

PHISHING

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