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Reverend Al Sharpton (left) speaks to the crowd at the 'Free Dontae Sharpe' rally while NC NAACP president William Barber looks on.

Rally held for Sharpe NC NAACP, Rev. Al Sharpton join in support

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Music filled the air of Philippi Church of Christ in Greenville Monday night, as civil rights activist Al Sharpton led a rally in support of a movement that began almost 23 years ago. People of all ages stood hand in hand in pews praying for justice and singing songs of hope, while holding signs that read "Free Dontae Sharpe."

Dontae Sharpe, a Greenville local, was sentenced to life in prison in 1995 for the murder of 33-year-old George Radcliffe. His case has since been the focus of Pitt County's local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter as a wrongful conviction.

Recently, Sharpe's case was been picked up by Duke's Wrongful Convictions Clinic and is set to be discussed at Governor Roy Cooper's office on Thursday, according to Greenville District Attorney Kimberly Robb.

"At the request of Dontae Sharpe's lawyers, my office has conducted an in-depth review of the murder case against him," Robb said in a written statement. "After examining the relevant police reports and witness statements, reading from all prior hearing and interviewing relevant parties to the case,

we have scheduled a meeting with representatives from the Governor's office on Thursday to discuss our findings."

Robb said the DA's office will not be making a public statement on the results of its investigation until after the meeting on Thursday.

"It's been a battle that I know is getting ready to end," Sharpe's mother Sarah Blakely said. "I knew Dontae was innocent since the first day they arrested him."

Sharpton, president and founder of National Action Network, said he agreed to come to Greenville to speak about this case, because he wants people to know this is not just a local issue but a national concern.

"This could be any one of our sons," Sharpton said to the crowd. "People need to know in Greenville, and all around, that this is not a Greenville problem. This is a problem all over our country."

Sharpton said he will remain fully behind this movement until Sharpe is released.

"I'll be in till Dontae is out," Sharpton said. "You are not protecting the public when you lock up the wrong man. The thing that people need to understand in this county is that whoever killed this young man is free and who knows if he or she has killed again."

Sharpton added, "One thing I love about this movement here, this is not a black movement, and this is not a white movement. This is not about black and white; this is about right and wrong."

North Carolina NAACP president, Reverend William Barber, who was one of the speakers at the rally, said youth should use their voices to ensure a better justice system.

"The students of East Carolina University could determine elections in Greenville," Barber said. "They could determine the kind of DAs and the kind of judges that sit on the bench."

Sharpe has continued to express his innocence in this murder since the day he was arrested and even refused a plea deal from the district attorney, because he refuses to admit to something he claims to not have done.

"Dontae could be out right now," Barber said. "He'd be out right now, but he said, I cannot lie to myself or lie to the system. That says something about his integrity."

Greenville local Arnetta Williams said she was at the event fighting against injustice. She said the system needs to

> DONTAE page A2

ECU professor announces plan to run for mayor

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

A religious studies professor at East Carolina University, Calvin Mercer, announced his intention to join the mayoral race for the city of Greenville on Saturday.

Mercer, who has taught at ECU since 1986, has served in the political arena as a Greenville City Council member since 2007.

"I've served on the City Council for 10 years, and whenever it's election time, I take a look at where I can best serve the community, and given my experience at the university and on the city council, I think that I can help facilitate a really excellent 'town and gown' relationship," Mercer said.

Mercer added Greenville could benefit with a politician who has experience and history with the area.

"The city is in a great transition right now with a change in (city) manager, assistant manager, (city) attorney and now mayor," Mercer said. "We need someone with a steady, experienced hand on the wheel to get us through this transition in a way that positions us to move the city forward."



Calvin Mercer

Mercer said it is important for a city to have strong relationships with different organizations inside the community.

"Well, the mayor is in a good position to foster partnerships between the city, the university and the county," Mercer said. "I'm a pretty big believer in working in partnerships in order to accomplish big, important projects."

According to Mercer, several of these important projects focus on ECU students. If elected mayor, Mercer said he wants to focus on making Greenville a safer place for those who live here.

"I want downtown to be safe, fun and profitable," Mercer said. "We want a good and close working relationship between the Greenville Police Department and the ECU Police Department."

He said the city and the university should do everything possible to make sure students are safe.

Mercer added the importance of proactive thinking when he shared another goal he'd have as mayor.

"Another big emphasis are ways to make Greenville attractive for East Carolina graduates," Mercer said. "Good jobs, that will keep students here when they graduate. We want them to be a part of the Greenville community. We want them to have that option."

As Mercer outlined some of his campaign strategies, many of them focused on student involvement, not just for his campaign but city politics in general.

> MERCER page A2

Former pitcher 'one step closer' to dream



ARCHIVED | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Evan Kruczynski winds up to throw a pitch.

Aaron Jackson
TEC STAFF

With Evan Kruczynski's illustrious college career at an end, the co-captain for the East Carolina baseball team is taking a step in a new direction towards the major leagues.

On the second day, in the ninth round of the 2017 Major League Baseball Draft, ECU's "Friday night starter," Kruczynski, was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals.

"It was a surprise because I did not get the call from the Cardinals until the morning of that day," Kruczynski said. "I talked to a bunch of other candidates but the Cardinals called me that morning... told me to look out for my name and a phone call and it all happened that fast."

The former All-American ECU pitcher is coming off two of his best seasons after suffering an injury during his senior year. He finished his ECU career with a 20-8 record, and now he must prepare for playing at the next level.

"It's a step along a dream come true, making it to the major league," Kruczynski said. "It is one step closer and I appreciate my coach for giving me this opportunity to make this jump through the minor leagues on my way up to the big league."

As the first ECU player selected in this year's MLB draft, many expectations will be placed on him to prove his worth with the Cardinals' organization. The pitcher noted it has not hit him yet that he is now a part of a major league team, but says he knows it is his duty to perform at a high level every game.

"I'm going to go to work every day knowing it's a job and that I have to make the right decisions on and off the field and represent the team well and also represent the Cardinals organization well," Kruczynski said. "After a bad first day like I had at ECU, I was determined to get better and if I have days like that with this organization I will do the same thing here. I think they are getting a guy who is determined and who wants to move his way up the ranks."

Kruczynski, who had many turning points during his career at ECU, became resilient after a rough first season with the Pirates.

"After freshman year, I felt really humbled because I struggled very bad and I was determined to get better just because (pitching coach Dan) Roszel and (head coach Cliff) Godwin came in and made me get better," Kruczynski said. "I had to make a comeback my sophomore year and that eventually led to the junior season that I had, and an even better season that I would have had this year, if it wasn't for the broken leg. But I couldn't have asked for a better career."

Through the years, Kruczynski has learned many lessons in becoming a better player for his team. With ECU's program being so demanding, he said it gave him the mental toughness to excel for the Pirates.

"It wasn't about baseball, it was about making you a better person on and off the field and that's part of being mentally tough."

> PITCHER page A6

ONLINE

» Young & Sober helps ECU students fight addictions

» Check out our photo gallery from 'Free Dontae Sharpe' rally

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

The City of Greenville announces new city manager

The city of Greenville has announced that Ann Wall will succeed current city manager Barbara Lipscomb after she retires in August.

Wall previously served as the assistant city manager for both the city of Charlotte and Rocky Mount, North Carolina. While in Charlotte, Wall worked closely on neighborhood development issues and public safety.

Wall received her master's degree in Public Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree in City Planning from the University of Virginia.

Lipscomb who has served as Greenville city manager for five years and will be retiring on August 31. Since her replacement has been named, Lipscomb will begin to transition from her current position to a special projects coordinator. Wall will be paid \$192,764 annually by the city of Greenville.

Greenville Police Department to host 'Summer Kickoff'

The Greenville Police Department, Greenville department of Parks and Recreation and Kona Ice will host a 'Summer Kickoff' for residents of the city.

The event will be held today at the Greenville Town Common from 1-3 p.m. Kona Ice will be offering free snow cones to guests.

The event will serve as an opportunity to welcome the first day of summer. The event has free admission and is considered to be family-friendly.

National Endowment for the Arts awards grant to study glassblowing

The National Endowment for the Arts announced East Carolina University was one of 19 organizations in North Carolina to receive a grant to research the cultural and economic impact of glassblowing.

ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication received a \$20,000 grant to study glassblowing at GlasStation, a studio in Farmville, North Carolina. The university began teaching academic classes and conducting community events at GlasStation in January.

The study will interview local Farmville residents about the impact GlasStation has had on the business district. Kate Bukoski, director of ECU's School of Art and Design will be the lead principal investigator for the study.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Proposed plan creates concern

Hope Benton
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Affordable Care Act is the current law that guides the nation's health care system. However, lawmakers in the nation's capital are working on a new health care law which would have important effects for eastern North Carolina residents.

The ACA was heavily advocated for by former President Barack Obama and passed in 2010. Since the 2016 election, President Donald Trump and the Republican-led House of Representatives and Senate have been working to create their own health care law. The American Health Care Act would repeal the ACA and create a new health care system.

"The American Health Care Act is basically a modification of the Affordable Care Act," East Carolina University Student Health Director LaNika Wright said. "The purpose will be to continue to offer healthcare to as many Americans as possible without making it mandatory to have insurance. Also, hopefully create lower premiums for Americans to pay."

Wright said the new plan would eliminate the penalty many Americans have faced for not having insurance. The proposed plan would also impact the number of people who are eligible for government sponsored insurance programs and decrease federal funding for programs such as Planned Parenthood Federation of America, along with a few other important details.

Pitt County Public Health Director Dr. John Morrow said his biggest concern for the American Health Care Act is Medicaid.

"A lot of our public health revenues come from the Medicaid program," Morrow said. "Our coverage is two-sided in a sense that we could



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

John Weeks, junior, walks into the Student Health Service building on the main campus at ECU.

be impacted by services that Medicaid covers, be impacted by eligibility, but we would also be impacted because there would be a lot more uninsured people under the AHCA."

Morrow said with less Americans having health insurance, it could create issues for other parts of the system.

"Without insurance, many people are going to seek help through public health services which will put stress on them to fund the services," Morrow said.

One of the current rules within the ACA is that children can stay on their parent's insurance until they are 26 years of age, but Morrow said that may change under the AHCA.

He said students can expect to see both negative and positive effects if the AHCA is passed.

"One of the positives for students are that they may be able to afford health insurance that

provides better coverage with a lower deductible, versus choosing an inexpensive plan that has poor coverage and high deductibles, as some students do now when purchasing coverage from the marketplace," Wright said. "One of the negatives is that Planned Parenthood may have to decrease services during the time their funding is decreased. For students who used Planned Parenthood in their local communities, this would impact the care they receive when not at ECU."

Morrow said college students in general are a healthier population and won't see the biggest impact.

"Where you're going to see the biggest impact is where people are likely to fall through cracks," Morrow said. "The poor, homeless, disabled and elderly are going to have the biggest affect."

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'I'll be in till Dontae is out'

DONTAE
continued from A1

be changed, because the current laws are not designed for African Americans.

"This man has spent more than half of his life behind bars for something he did not do," Williams said. "I'm wondering what would happen if this were one of theirs, but it wouldn't happen to them."

The main argument for Dontae's innocence stems from one of the key witnesses recanting her statement. Charlene Johnson, the 13-year-old eyewitness for Sharpe's case, claimed she saw him shoot Raddcliffe. However months after the trial, Johnson admitted to have been lying about the whole story.

"Imagine someone testifies against you and they're credible, but when they say no, that's not what happened, they are no longer

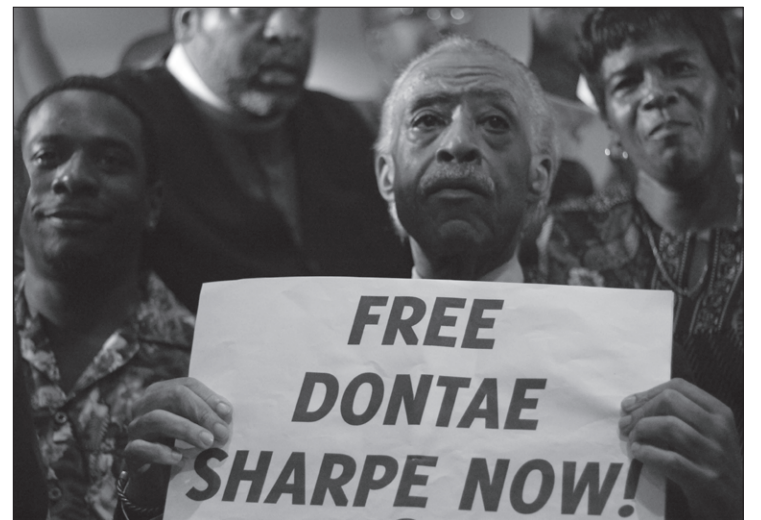
credible," Sharpton said. "This is intolerable, and this must be raised and kept in the national light."

Sharpton said a special outside prosecutor needs to be assigned to Sharpe's case. He said the community cannot count on "locals to investigate themselves."

"Local politics is too intertwined. Local legal systems are too intertwined," Sharpton said. "If they had to get a special council for Trump and Russia, they can get a special council for Dontae Sharpe."

One of the lawyers working on Sharpe's case, Theresa Newman, said it is crucial for the community to show its support for Sharpe in order for the case to ever make progress.

"We do not know what Dontae would have become, but we, who know him, can tell you what he is. He's an extraordinary man," Newman said. "He is a man



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Reverend Al Sharpton stands with supporters who want Dontae Sharpe freed.

of great intellect, great courage, great devotion, great love, great sympathy for others."

At the rally, both Newman and Barber mentioned a previous client of the Duke's Wrongful Convictions Clinic zfrom Wilson, who recently

was released from jail after finally being found innocent.

"This is not something that just happened. This is happening," Barber said.

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MERCER
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He said social media, as well as his campaign website, will serve as important tools for those interested in his political journey.

"I am going to make myself available as my schedule permits to speak to student groups, listen to their concerns, to incorporate their ideas into our city policies," Mercer said. "There will be a big mailing that will be going out next week giving more info about the campaign and we will be using social media in order to spread our message of student

involvement and listening to students and what their needs are."

Mercer spoke about the importance of student involvement. Throughout his career as both a professor and politician, students have been at the center of his attention, he said.

"I've committed a good bit of my professional life to education and to working with students and I want to have a very good relationship between the university and the city," Mercer said.

In past years, Mercer has usually worked with students at the university on his campaigns, he said. This year's campaign will be

no different as an ECU student will serve as his campaign manager.

As Mercer moves through campaign season towards election time, he reiterated his focus will be the safety of students and the needs of the Greenville community.

"A thing of fundamental importance is safety," Mercer said. "We have worked very, very hard and I have been involved in making sure that our center city, where students live and play and go to school, is safe."

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72 PLUS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEK

TODAY

Umbrella Market
Five Points Plaza
5 p.m.

Yoga in the Park
Town Common
6 p.m.

THURSDAY

2017 Summer Shrimp Shindig
Greenville Museum of Art
6 p.m.

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

Wine Tasting
CPW's Fine Food & Spirits
6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Spare Change Live
Tiebreakers
10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Eastern Run/Walk for Autism
Greenville Town Common
9 a.m.

Basic Spiritual Herbalism
The Sojourner
3 p.m.

80's Night
The Painted Peacock
7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Greenville Vinyl Record Show
Masonic Temple
10 a.m.

Sunday in the Park
Greenville Town Common
7 p.m.

MONDAY

Summer Trivia Contest
Mellow Mushroom
8 p.m.

TUESDAY

Trivia
Fire American Tavern
8 p.m.

Trivia
Carolina Ale House
8 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY GREENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Female Greenville Police Department officers pose for a photo while filming 'Women of GPD'.

'Women of GPD' video aims to empower females

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

A recent video, "Women of GPD", produced by the Greenville Police Department depicted the strength of its female officers in an industry dominated by men.

This was exactly the mindset of Kristen Hunter, the public information officer for GPD, who wanted to emphasize and celebrate the women of GPD in the video.

Hunter, who served as the project manager, said the goal of the project was to create a promotional video that both celebrated women and inspired them.

"The women who work in the field don't always receive the recognition they deserve," Hunter said. "I'm very pleased with the finished product and I think it's something the ladies of our department can be really proud of."

As project manager, it was Hunter's responsibility to come up with the concept of the video and write the script. In cooperation with Benz Productions, she said the department's vision was turned into a reality.



Kristen Hunter

Although "Women of GPD" is the second video produced by GPD and Benz thus far, the department does plan on releasing eight videos this year as per the contract with Benz Productions, according to Hunter. The first video focused on the officer's home lives and on the humanity of law enforcement officers. Hunter said future videos will highlight topics such as community policing and the K-9 unit of GPD.

"Each of the videos will be unique in their own way," Hunter said. "Some are designed to be more heartfelt and pull at your heart-strings, others will be more action-packed. While unique in their own way, the videos are all designed to educate, promote and serve as a recruiting tool for the department."

Hunter added she wants members of the public to watch the video and pay attention to its message.

"We want people to watch it and be compelled to be a part of something great," Hunter said. "We want to send the message to young women out there that they can be anything they want to be if they put their mind to it."

Hunter, who has worked at GPD for almost four years, said she feels empowered on a daily basis as she serves in her role as the public information officer.

"We are lucky to work for an organization who supports diversity and equal opportunity in the workplace," Hunter said. "I'm grateful to

be able to work in an environment where I have so much creative freedom. It's allowed me to be able to work on projects that really matter to our community and showcase the work of all our amazing employees."

According to Hunter, the dynamic between female GPD employees and their male counterparts is one of kindred support for each other. When producing the "Women of GPD" video, several male officers responded in a positive way by assisting in the production.

"Our male officers are very supportive of our female officers and vice versa," Hunter said. "You often will hear the terms 'brothers in blue' or 'sisters in blue' when it comes to law enforcement. It truly is a family environment."

Hunter said while the department hadn't planned to release the video at any specific time, by releasing it this summer, the video's impact ended up being part of a larger conversation.

"Several people have noted that it was released around the same time the 'Wonder Woman' movie came out in theaters," said Hunter. "Although a total coincidence on timing, we're proud to be a part of this current movement that celebrates women and their talents."

Hunter added the women who work for GPD fill a wide range of roles within the department.

"We have 25 female sworn officers and a variety of female civilian employees," Hunter said. "Their jobs range anywhere from patrol officers to investigations to criminal intelligence, logistics and administrative roles."

The power of the message and the presentation have led to the video being shared more than 300 times on Facebook alone.

"The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive," Hunter said. "We've seen the video shared all across the country. Naturally, many of the followers who have been sharing the video from our social media pages are women themselves. We love to see that other women are excited over the project and feel empowered by it."

Not only are women feeling empowered by the video and its message, many have literally been inspired to join the force. Hunter said she felt the future for women in law enforcement continues to expand and this video adds energy to the movement.

"We've even received several emails from individuals who watched the video and now want to apply to work here," Hunter said. "Recently, we made history in Pitt County by having the first all-female officer swearing-in. It's truly an exciting time to be a woman in law enforcement and an especially exciting time to be a woman at GPD."

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ECU Police to implement body cameras

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Police Department is joining other law enforcement agencies within the UNC system and the city of Greenville in equipping its officers with body cameras.

The department will spend between \$60,000-70,000 to implement 70 body cameras to all sworn officers, said Jason Sugg, ECU deputy police chief.

Sugg said each camera costs approximately \$600. The cameras come from a vendor familiar to ECU. The vendor, L3, currently provides body cameras to North Carolina State University and already supplies ECU Police with in-car cameras.

Sugg said ECU isn't the first university in the UNC system to implement body cameras into its police department. ECU will join other universities such as North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, along with a number of other institutions in doing so.

"They're here, we got the cameras," Sugg said. "We do still have to do a little bit of leg work on the logistics on the back end to make sure we have the necessary server space and that kind of stuff."

Sugg said the department is spending the time now to create the infrastructure needed to support a body camera system. Instead of issuing out the cameras immediately, Sugg said the department wants to make sure everything is created and prepared to avoid any issues down the road.

"We gave ourselves a kind of deadline of December, but I hope it's before that," Sugg said. "Some of that will depend on the I.T. side."

According to Sugg, in the coming months, the department will continue to fulfill the technological demands of the body cameras, along with creating a guiding policy on how to use the equipment. Some of those demands include downloading and storing the recordings on secure servers.

"We've written a policy," Sugg said. "It's been reviewed by (ECU's Office of University Counsel), but it hasn't been finalized yet."

Sugg said when the department was creating the policy, they looked at other universities such as NC State, UNC Charlotte and even the Greenville Police Department.

According to Kristen Hunter, public information officer with GPD, Greenville Police has been body cameras for several years now for some of its officers.

Hunter said Greenville Police's body camera program started several years ago after the city received funding from the federal government.

"Our philosophy when it comes to policing is really just being community oriented," Hunter said.

Sugg said ECU Police have been planning to implement a body camera program at the department for many years, but was restricted by the heavy financial costs associated with the technology. Finally, last year the university and department were both in a position to buy the body cameras and implement the system.

Sugg said ECU Police will be making the public aware that officers will be wearing body cameras. He added, "It seems like people are getting more used to (body cameras)."

Sugg said body cameras are a growing trend in the law enforcement community. He described body cameras as "a tool that will show facts, it will show this is what happened."

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Camp inspires children with illnesses

Hope Benton
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The sound of laughter and chatter from children fills the air as you walk around Camp Rainbow and Camp Hope at Camp Don Lee in Arapahoe, North Carolina. The camp is put on each summer by the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University for children with cancer, hemophilia and sickle cell disease.

Camp Rainbow is for children living with cancer or hemophilia and began back in 1982, while Camp Hope, which began in 1991, is for children living with sickle cell disease.

"The camps were developed by the ECU pediatric hematology and oncology staff to help children learn about themselves and their illnesses. It allows them to interact with other children who share common experiences," Camp Director Jacquelyn Sauls said.

The campers participate in activities such as sailing, swimming, canoeing and crafts. They additionally receive 24-hour medical care

from ECU physicians and nurses throughout the week.

Sauls said volunteers want to help the children who attend the camp understand that they aren't the only ones battling their disease.

"Many of our volunteers are people who battled cancer, hemophilia or sickle cell disease. They come back to mentor, to show that they're in college, that they had or have a sickness and they have learned how to do things," Sauls said. "They get to teach other children how to do things that they may have to do when they get older due to their sickness."

Sauls added the camp is beneficial for the entire family as well because parents know the kids are having fun and meeting new friends. The camps, she said, also allow the parents time to get a break and heal themselves.

Children who have lost siblings due to the sicknesses are also welcomed at camp.

While the cost per-camper is \$1,000, the camp is offered for free through donations from the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Founda-



CONTRIBUTED BY LINDSAY CORTRIGHT

Children with chronic illnesses participate in sailing activities through camp.

tion, Dowdy Student Stores, Beau's Buddies and many other organizations and individual donors.

Sauls said while they are thankful for all of the donations received for the camp, if they had additional funding, it would allow the camp to accept more children.

"There were some kids who were eligible to come to camp, but were unable to come because we didn't have the funding," Sauls said. "We want to be able to tell every child they can come to camp one day."

Sauls said because they're a part of the ECU family, they have relied on many ECU students as volunteers. She added one of their previous campers, who is coming back this summer to volunteer, will be a student at ECU in the fall.

"Now he's able to come to ECU to achieve his goals, and he wants to accomplish this because ECU helped him get through so much," Sauls said.

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

OUR VIEW

Paris Accord withdrawal detrimental

The debate surrounding climate change is tricky. Scientific data coming in from around the world is showing dangerous and damaging implications from the changing climate.

In 2015, the global community decided to create an agreement that would save the world from any ramifications because of climate change. The Paris Agreement asked countries to support reducing emissions and symbolized a global that climate change is an imminent threat.

Earlier this month, President Donald Trump decided to withdraw from the accord.

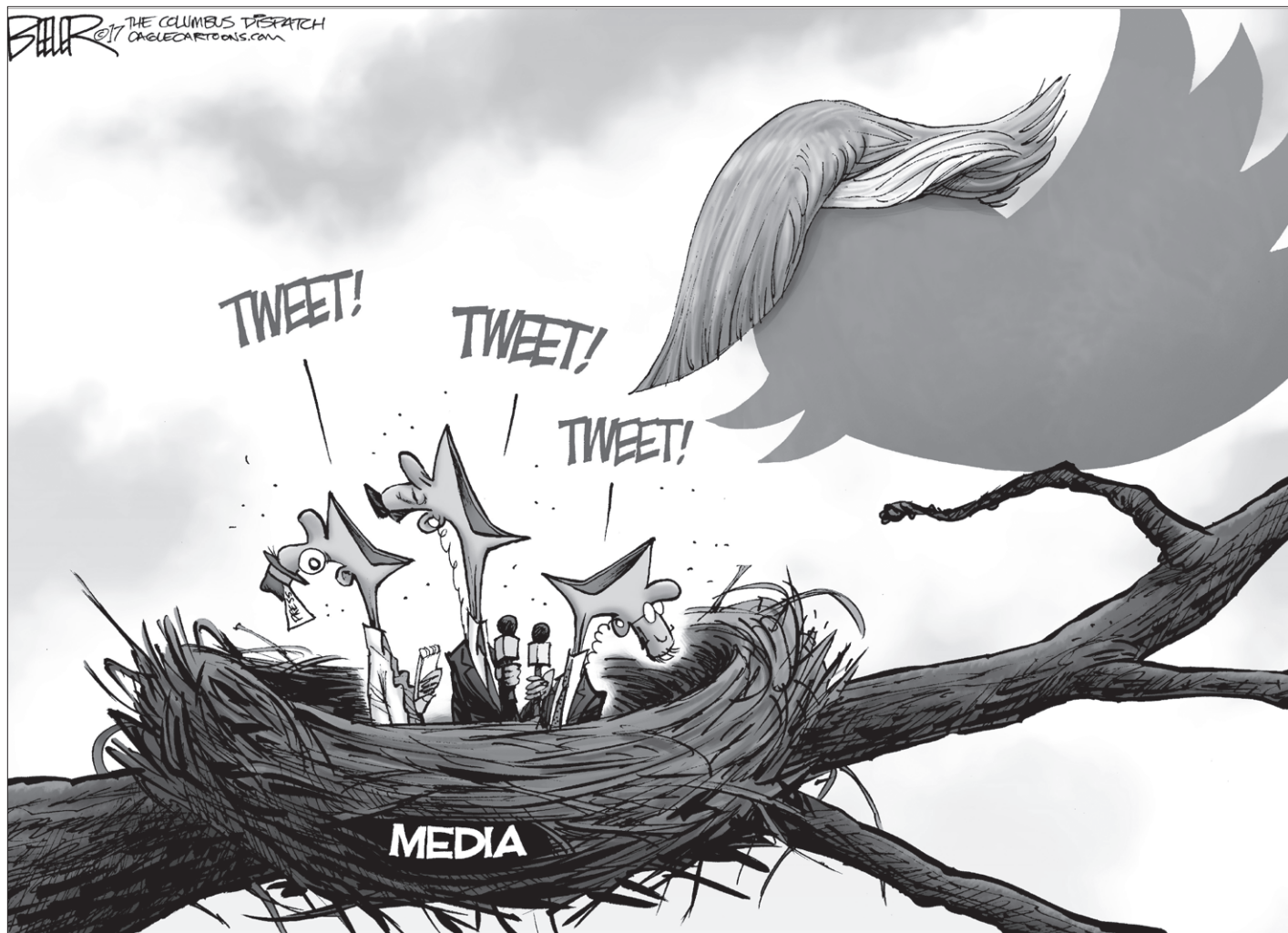
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, disagree with President Trump's reasoning for pulling out of the Paris Climate Accord. President Trump said America would lose jobs because of the Paris Agreement and any cut to national emissions wouldn't affect the overall trend.

The Paris Agreement was a non-binding, penalty-free agreement that was incapable of harming a country. The agreement was self-compliant and relied on countries being honest with their reporting. Moreover, 25 major United States-based companies voiced their support for the Paris Agreement to the president.

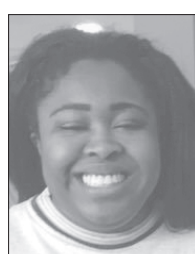
According to the Brookings Institute, 69 percent of American voters support the United States participating in the Paris Agreement.

Although the president cited an MIT research article about rising global temperatures, the researchers said President Trump misunderstood their data and urged action in curbing emissions.

We should work as a global community to solve environmental challenges. The Paris Agreement was a fantastic opportunity at that and President Trump declined to change the future because of misleading facts and opinions.



Starting the discussion early Consent education needs to begin earlier in schools



Blessing Aghimien
TEC STAFF

Bless The Press

As college students, we've seen the posters. We've read the headlines. We've heard the ever-so-recurrent word: consent. As high schoolers, such a word may have entered our minds a time or two. As middle schoolers, such a word was practically extinct.

While most middle school and high school health curriculums are shrouded in class lectures complete with uncomfortable PowerPoint presentations, sex organ diagrams and question boxes filled with childish jokes from students, college seems to be the place where the unit on sexual consent and violence begins. The only problem is that such a unit begins with no prior awareness amongst students.

Early this May, an Associated Press investigation documented sexual assault prevalence in grade schools across the nation, noting that assault can take place amongst grade schoolers as young as in kindergarten. From Fall 2011 to Spring 2015, the state of North Carolina alone reported 860 incidents of rape, sexual assault and sexual offense in public schools.

The national epidemics of sexual assault and violence amongst students are much more widespread among young people than commonly thought. The tardy detection of

deeply unaddressed roots in violent individuals is detrimental to the fight against campus assault. More often than not, affirmative-consent education comes too little and too late for college students.

The age limit on consent education can be lowered for the sake of preventing future victims. And contrary to popular belief, such education doesn't have to be as controversial as it may sound.

East Carolina University is one of several universities around the nation taking the initiative to fight against sexual assault. With the implementation of the online education module HAVEN to the Victim Services offered on campus, many outlets are available for all students to be educated on and assisted in cases of sexual violence.

The eye-grabbing graphics and interactive elements of HAVEN would be ideal in terms of educating high schoolers and middle schoolers about sexual assault. The statistics and realistic scenarios provided in the online module can captivate the interest of the young pupils, while the quizzes at the end of each part of the module instills the learning aspect when covering such a crucial and relevant topic.

Awareness is key in the fight against sexual assault, and campaigns such as the It's On Us social movement have been monumental when it comes to providing sexual assault awareness on college campuses all across the nation. Putting a face to the name and a title to the issue aids the fight. More high schools and middle schools should

take the initiative to invite advocates against sexual assault to speak to students.

Marking the month of April in the school's activity calendar wouldn't be that bad of an idea either. The fourth month of the year happens to also be Sexual Assault Awareness month, and by acknowledging this to students, as well as planning appropriate activities regarding this month, students will have an early exposure to the cruciality of the fight towards consent education.

Consent education can even be taught in age-appropriate manners to young children, as early as kindergarten and first grade, often without the mention of sexual activity. Phrases such as "no mean no" and the establishing of body boundaries are a good start to early consent education. Such an education can not only aid the fight against rape culture and dating violence, but can also contribute to better interpersonal interactions among students, from the classroom to the workplace.

The shameful statistic that one in five women will endure some form of sexual assault in college is beyond worthy of acknowledgement and advocacy. And while shocking, we must acknowledge and advocate against another aspect of the problem at hand: sexual violence can arise among demographics younger than college-aged students.

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

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Students should lead education



Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Don't Mind Matt

The current college experience is filled with years of studying, late nights, stress or poor health and sleepless nights over grades. Socially, it consists

of an experiment where maturity either blossoms or continues to lay dormant.

These years of education, social exploration and internal maturing are crucial points in an adult's life. For many, it allows them the time to figure out what interests will inspire them for the rest of their lives. For others, it's a multi-year party on the tail of a comet which moves so fast, it's important to brace and hold on.

However, no matter how a student goes about college, whether they are academically motivated or not, the majority will go on to shake some hands, receive a degree and graduate. The system in its current form forces students into core curriculum classes which in some cases can be useless. Accounting majors take humanities courses, future computer scientists sit through biology classes and aspiring journalists learn about Socrates in philosophy.

In large part, many of these courses don't have direct benefits to how those future employees will be able to perform their jobs.

Core curriculum, which consists of general graduating requirements, is a poor, outdated, redundant and expensive solution that isn't preparing students in the most efficient way possible. Instead, imagine a system where education is led by students and driven by their own curiosity, not the universities.

For example, consider a figurative system called "Student's Choice". It allows students to take as many classes as they wish, but requires them to take only the courses that pertain to their respective major.

In most cases, the argument for core curriculum requirements boils down to three main arguments: it helps undeclared students narrow down their interests, creates well-rounded workers and gives some students the time they need to mature.

First, it's illogical to say requiring students to take a host of science, english, foreign language, math and humanities classes will help individuals pick a major. If a student is conflicted or interested in multiple majors, then core curriculum requirements waste their time. If undeclared students could have the freedom to choose whichever classes they want, it would allow them more opportunities to experience each major and make an informed decision.

Second, educating young adults about different aspects of life creates well-rounded workers, and there should

be more people in the world equipped with knowledge of a wide variety.

Forcing knowledge, in some cases that has already been taught, is wasteful both of the student's time and money. In the "Student's Choice" system, individuals will be encouraged to take a variety of courses, but aren't required to. It's their education, so the decisions should be left to them.

Finally, the years devoted to college can be very beneficial to some. Students should be allowed to take the courses that drive their curiosity, not classes that are forced onto them.

College education is useful to students. The lessons learned both inside a classroom and outside, play significant roles into how someone behaves in the future. College degrees are a very important commodity in today's world, but those seeking them should have a larger role in aspects that make up their education.

I implore all students to take as many courses that interests them as possible. However, creating a system of forced education doesn't inspire anyone to greatness. Without that spark to change the world, education isn't fulfilling its true mission.

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- You're good at solving domestic problems over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Go from theoretical to practical. You're especially clever today and tomorrow.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Bring home the bacon through tomorrow. Your communications and networking skills are especially hot, with Mercury in Cancer. Study, research and write your views.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- You're more confident over this Summer Solstice. You can make a bundle over three weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Monitor your earnings. Communications lead to profits.

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 a 6 -- Friends help out through tomorrow. Allow more time for contemplation over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Make long-term plans. Decide what you want.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Take charge at work through tomorrow. Confer with your team. Group communication flows easier for several weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Network, socialize and share resources.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Travel and research flow well through tomorrow. Use cleverness and wit to advance your career, with Mercury in Cancer. A rise in status comes through communications.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Manage financial accounts over the next two days. Expand your territory for several weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Discuss plans and destinations. Do the homework.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Compromise comes easier today and tomorrow. Track your budget closely, with Mercury in Cancer for three weeks. Go through numbers. Paperwork gets profitable.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- The early bird Today is a 7 -- Nurture your health today and tomorrow. Partnership flowers over the next few weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Brainstorm and converse. What will you create?

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Relax with family and friends through tomorrow. Expand your health and vitality over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Practice for strength and endurance.

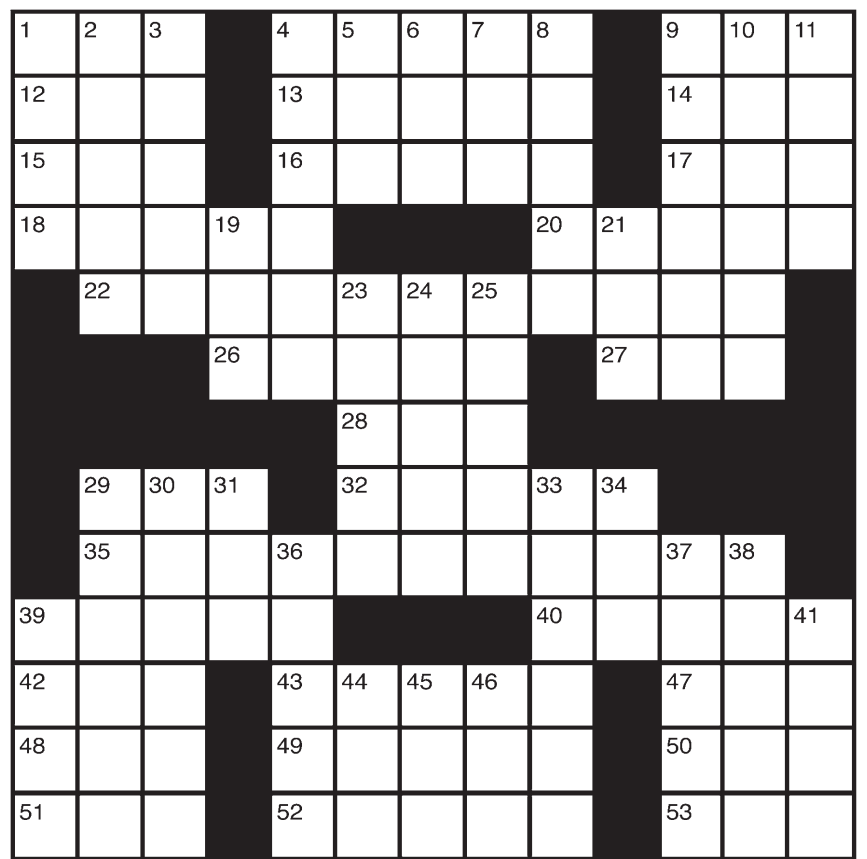
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Sweet words come easily for several weeks, with Mercury in Cancer. Intimate conversation flows. Charm and express your affection. Make your home more comfortable through tomorrow.

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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



ACROSS

- 1 Newhart or Saget
- 4 Garr and Hatcher
- 9 Mr. Rather
- 12 "___ lazy river by the old mill run..."
- 13 "___ You Glad You're You"; song for Bing Crosby
- 14 Miner's discovery
- 15 Maggie, to Bart
- 16 "___ heart!"; plea for mercy
- 17 Setting for "Bonanza": abbr.
- 18 Shirley Temple movie
- 20 Frasier or Niles
- 22 Actor on "NCIS: New Orleans"
- 26 Oldsmobile model of past decades
- 27 Begley and O'Neill
- 28 Lesser-used conjunction
- 29 Jacuzzi
- 32 Took an oath
- 35 Actress on "2 Broke Girls"
- 39 "___ Dad"
- 40 One of the planets
- 42 "One Day ___ Time"
- 43 Shed crocodile tears

- 47 "Tarzan the ___ Man"
- 48 Topaz or ruby
- 49 Morley, once of "60 Minutes"
- 50 Israel's ___ Aviv
- 51 Paul's cousin on "Mad About You"
- 52 ___ Katic of "Castle"
- 53 Mrs. in Madrid

DOWN

- 1 Obama's predecessor
- 2 Mayberry kid and his namesakes
- 3 "___ Instinct"; film for Michael Douglas and Sharon Stone
- 4 Largest island of French Polynesia
- 5 Historical period
- 6 Gun the engine
- 7 Ending for Paul or Max
- 8 Robert of "Unsolved Mysteries"
- 9 Daisy Duck's love
- 10 Stadiums
- 11 Actress Campbell
- 19 One of the Seven Dwarfs
- 21 Actress McClanahan
- 23 Uptight
- 24 "Murphy ___"
- 25 ___ Hotchner; role on "Criminal Minds"
- 29 Peggy Fleming or Michelle Kwan
- 30 "The ___ Game"; Doris Day movie
- 31 "___ Z"; short-lived Ben Feldman sitcom
- 33 Geraldo ___
- 34 180 degrees from WSW
- 36 "Say Yes to the ___"
- 37 Pesky insects
- 38 "My ___ Ex-Girlfriend"; film for Uma Thurman and Luke Wilson
- 39 Three kings of biblical fame
- 41 Actress Ward
- 44 Floor pad
- 45 "Men ___ Certain Age"
- 46 Number of seasons for "JAG"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

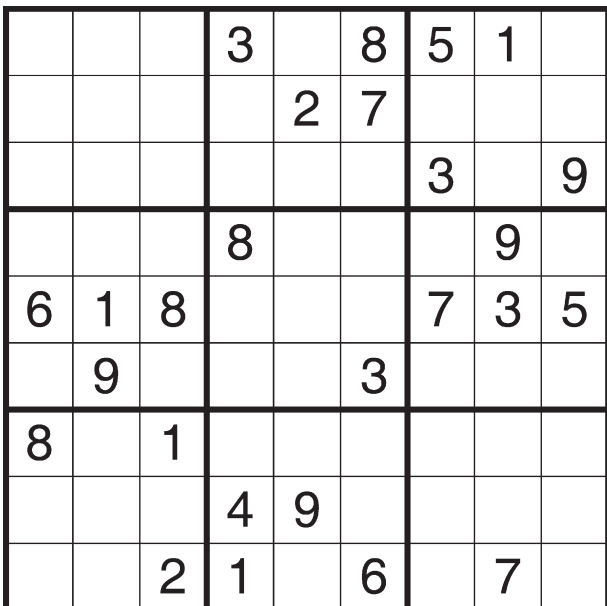


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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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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

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

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



BEST IN SHOW



>> TRACK AND FIELD

Coach talks putting team first

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

Each year brings in new faces to the university, but not every year brings in a new coach. However, last year, East Carolina University's track and field team welcomed former collegiate runner Josey Weaver as the distance coach.

With less than a year on ECU's coaching staff, it is clear that Coach Weaver has already made an impact on the school's track and field program.

"The dedication to this team is something I've never seen in a coach before," sophomore Andrew Ciaccia said. "You can ride by the Olympic building at 6 a.m. or 10 p.m. and you will see [Weaver's] office light on and the back of his long blonde hair in there working."

Weaver, a North Carolina native, competed on the collegiate level at Western Carolina University. After completing the competing portion of his career, Weaver took up coaching. He coached at Murray



Josey Weaver

State University before joining East Carolina's track and field program as the distance coach in October of 2016.

Coaching isn't anything new for Weaver. Both his dad and uncle have each been coaching for over 40 years. Naturally, Weaver has been around this lifestyle his whole life.

Weaver says although he has only been coaching at ECU for just over seven months, he has found the position rewarding.

"Coming in October and seeing the results that we had from indoor and outdoor, I'm very, very pleased we broke four schools records on the distance side," Weaver said. Weaver added he was also proud of the academic effort his athletes put in from the first semester to the second semester. The men's team maintained a 3.27 grade point average while the women's team held an overall 3.59 GPA. This he credits to the

hard work athletes put into their studying.

While it is a team sport, track and field places a large focus on the individual athlete. For Weaver though, he emphasizes the idea of team cohesiveness.

"I try to explain that the team score is what is most important and if each athlete competes to their best ability, then both the team and the individual's benefit in the end," Weaver said. "The [distance] team knows when and how to switch on and off that aspect of competing and that is making them better."

The end goal for each track and field athlete is to make it to National Collegiate Athletic Association Indoor or Outdoor National Championships. While Weaver places a focus on team camaraderie, he said he still pushes his athletes to improve and strive for indoor or outdoor national titles.

"There's going to be the little voice that comes into your head that tells you to stop or slow down," Weaver said. "And I try to get my athletes to ignore the voice and

when you can get an athlete to buy into the program and ignore the voice and push through the barrier that they never have accomplished, then the joy on their face is worth all the hours of working."

Not only has being at ECU affected Weaver by giving him a new place to coach but he has, in return, impacted the team's overall efficiency by working with the individual athletes according to distance runners.

"I would say [Weaver's] greatest impact on his runners is his patience and his efforts to individualize everyone's training," Ciaccia said. "[Weaver] took time to meet with every runner and hear their strengths and weaknesses and some of their background in order to configure the best training program for every single athlete."

Overall, Weaver said he has found himself enjoying his start with ECU's track and field team and looks to keep the distance team moving forward and improving next season.

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

PITCHER
continued from A1

Kruczynski said. "This world will knock you down at some point, so I feel ECU has helped prepare me for those situations. So when something bad happens along the way, I (will) be prepared for it and come back even stronger."

Chemistry will play a major role in how well the rookie adjusts to playing in the minor leagues. Over the years as a Pirate, starting catcher Travis Watkins has gotten to know Kruczynski on and off the field. The relationship between the two as teammates may end but

Watkins believes his friend is ready to play for the Cardinals.

"I think Kruz is more prepared than anyone in the country to go out there and perform. He loves the game and has a passion for the game," Watkins said. "Anytime you have a passion for something you have a better chance of succeeding. The guy loves the game and he's gonna go out there and put his best foot forward and compete everyday."

The relationship between Watkins and Kruczynski grew stronger as they adjusted to each other's style of playing. Kruczynski said Watkins was like

" This world will knock you down at some point, so I feel ECU has helped prepare me for those situations. "

—Evan Kruczynski

another coach on the field and because of their chemistry, they worked well together.

"It's always important to have a pitcher and catcher chemistry, but like I said, it's a business now so it is not going to be as easy to make that chemistry

with anyone," Kruczynski said. "Everyone is fighting for a job, but I will do my best to try to find that same chemistry that me and Travis had so that I can be successful at this level."

Watkins provided Kruczynski some advice as the pitcher starts

to make the transition to the major leagues.

"Don't change a thing. I mean, what he has done has got him to be an All-American, it got him to be a three time Friday night starter, and not many people in the country have done that," Watkins said. "Just because he's playing pro ball doesn't mean he needs to change a thing. He should keep that same work ethic that he had when he was at ECU, go out there and put his best foot forward and just compete every single day and I know he'll do great."

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

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