



MOVIE REVIEW: 'DEATH NOTE' UNDERWHELMS FANS

Turn to A5



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 9.5.17

VOLUME 92, ISSUE 5

>>WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

ECU, City officials react to allegations

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Students of East Carolina University, residents of Greenville and officials with both the city and institution have continued to react to The East Carolinian's investigative report, 'Where There's Smoke, There's Fire,' which was published Aug. 31.

The article, which contained accounts from 25 current and former Greenville Fire/Rescue employees, detailed accounts years of alleged poor leadership, mismanagement and risky practices by GFR. These allegations were supported by interviews with the current and former GFR employees and documents obtained through public records requests.

As of Monday afternoon, a Change.org petition calling for the removal of Chief Eric Griffin and Deputy Chief Brock Davenport had gained 257 signatures in three days.

"The piece 'Where There's Smoke There's Fire' touched on a great deal of public safety issues, retaliation against a whistleblower, the creation of a hostile work environment, bullying and the city appears to be complicit in all of this," Leanne Ford, a concerned citizen of the city of Greenville who started the petition said. "The Change.org petition was created to try and reach people, who may not read or have access to The East Carolinian, with the story of what is actually going on at GFR."

The city of Greenville had its hesitations about The East Carolinian's special report in the days following its release.

"We had a lot of concerns about the sources in the article, but as far as an official reaction from the City Manager Ann Wall or the City Manager's Office, I don't really have anything to offer you," Brock Letchworth, public information officer for the city of Greenville, said in an emailed statement.

The East Carolinian attempted to reach GFR for reaction to the article, but instead received an email from Letchworth requesting all questions regarding GFR be addressed to the city.

"After reading your recent article regarding Greenville Fire/Rescue, a flawed article at best, I determined that it will be best if I work with you moving forward," Letchworth said.

Greenville City Council member Calvin Mercer said the city was taking the allegations very seriously.

"We want to have the very best fire/rescue response that we can have for the safety of our citizens,"

> REACTION page A2



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Head coach Scottie Montgomery watches his team's opening game against James Madison Saturday night. The Pirates lost 34-14.

Dukes runover Pirates JMU'S Cardon Johnson runs for 265 yards

While East Carolina University had been preparing for its football game against James Madison University, the Dukes' running back Cardon Johnson looked like he was getting ready for a track meet as he ran away with the game Saturday.

If the Pirates thought it was the JMU quarterback, Bryan Schor, they had to be worried about, they were sadly mistaken. All Schor had to do in Saturday's 34-14 lopsided win was handle the snap, hand it off and get out of the way; Johnson did the rest.

Singlehandedly, Johnson, a redshirt senior, carried his Dukes to an explosive night on the offensive side of the ball. The JMU running back scampered for 265 yards and two touchdowns on just 17 carries, finishing the game averaging over 15 yards per rush. He erased any hope Pirate fans had on the first snap of the second half, taking a run up the middle 85 yards right into the endzone in front of thousands of silent Pirate fans. He also had an 80-yard touchdown rush in the game.

"We know we're better than this," Pirates defensive lineman Kiante Anderson said. "We just have to keep



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU's Darius Pinnix lunges in the end zone for one of the Pirates touchdowns of the day.

our technique under pressure and focus. We need to play the next every time."

Even though it's the defense who will take the blame all week, head coach Scottie Montgomery thought the problems started on the other side of the ball. Gardner Minshew started the game struggling to complete his first

pass, while the Pirates running backs and offensive lines floundered when trying to establish a run game. Without being able to move the ball themselves, Montgomery thought his team put too

> FOOTBALL page A8

ECU doctoral student awarded research grant

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Following one's dreams may seem difficult, but for one East Carolina University doctoral student, these dreams may be well on the way to becoming reality.



Caley Kropp

Kropp has spent most of his life trying to help people. With a mom who works in child development and a dad who is a counselor, Kropp knew he wanted to find a career in the "helping field" as well.

After receiving his masters in clinical rehabilitation and mental counseling at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Kropp specifically sought out ECU for its clinical health doctoral program

in the Department of Psychology.

"(ECU's) program is a clinical health psychology, which is actually kind of rare. There's less than 10 in the country," Kropp said. "Not only are we trained to be psychologists as you would think of them, we are specifically trained to work in hospitals and primary care and are trying to bridge that gap between medicine and psychology."

However, he had no idea this one decision to come to ECU would lead to a \$20,000 once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This year, Kropp was one out of eight applicants to receive a \$20,000 grant from the Heart Rhythm Society for research surrounding a new smartphone electrocardiogram (ECG) device, which could help find potential stroke risk factors in people.

> DOCTORAL page A2



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina Heart Institute on East Carolina University's medical campus where Kropp's office is located.

ONLINE

» Danielle's Discover Weekly brings EDM hits to the table

» Check out our online galleries at theeastcarolinian.com

SOCIAL MEDIA



@theeastcarolinian



Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian



@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

GPD headquarters struck by stray bullets

Early Sunday morning, the Greenville Police Department Headquarters in downtown Greenville was struck by a stray bullet as a result of a dispute across the street at Jarvis Memorial Church.

At approximately 2:44 a.m., GPD officers heard multiple gunshots coming from the Jarvis Memorial Church area and responded. After pulling over a suspicious vehicle, they found a stolen handgun and marijuana.

GPD began an investigation and learned that Kevin Christopher Hart, 23, of Rocky Mount, North Carolina allegedly got into an argument with another individual and fired several rounds.

The stray bullet hit the GPD Headquarters and two vehicles, causing minimal damage.

Hart was charged with possession of a stolen firearm, discharging a weapon into occupied property and possession of up to a half ounce of marijuana. His bond has been set at \$125,000.

ECU off-campus office to host breakfast event

The East Carolina University Off-Campus Student Services will host "Breakfast at the Bus Stop" in hopes of improving communication with students.

The event will be held Wednesday from 7:30-9 a.m. outside of the Christenbury Memorial Gymnasium.

ECU Adventure Center to host event on river

The East Carolina University Adventure Center will host an event, allowing participants to paddle down the Tar River under the upcoming full moon.

The event will cost \$10 per person. It will start at 6 p.m. Wednesday and finish at 9 a.m.

"Full Moon Paddle Tar River" is meant to allow individuals to see the beauty of the Tar River, while it's illuminated by a full moon.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Democratic Socialists to establish club

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University is home to many different student organizations and may be adding a new club to this list starting later this fall.

Young Democratic Socialists will become an official chapter at ECU by the beginning of October, according to junior psychology major Kristoffer Rixon.

"We have about 30 or 40 students interested in joining YDS," Rixon said. "We just need to get more people interested, and hopefully by the end of the year we will have a decent amount of people involved in YDS at ECU."

Rixon said he got the idea to start the club at ECU along with Caroline Debnam, a student who graduated last year from ECU.

"ECU's too conservative," Rixon said. "You have Turning Point, which is a very ultra conservative organization...then you have College Republicans, but they don't do too much."

He said the goal of YDS is to teach students how to be more actively involved in their communities through a better understanding of socialist values.

"It's just advocating for the average person to make sure that we are doing what's right for the community," Rixon said.

According to the Young Democratic Socialists of America's national website, "Young Democratic Socialists is the youth and student section of the Democratic Socialists of America, and a national organization of recognized campus chapters and several hundred activists," the website said. "We are students organizing in our universities, colleges, and high schools to fight for the immediate needs of workers and students while building our capacity to fight for more radical and structural changes."

Debnam said she believes this club will be a crucial addition to ECU's campus solely because of the school's location.

"ECU is located in one of the poorest regions in the nation, yet right-wing politics, especially on campus, prevail significantly over left-wing politics and ideas," she said. "We need more positive, actual left-wing voices in these spaces where education and activism are most possible."

For her, socialism is a way to help relieve this poverty.

"Socialism is the only ideology that puts



EMMY IRONS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Caleb Burroughs, Kristoffer Rixon, Amber Delgado and Aaron Pearce discusses ideas at a table.

working class people in power," Debnam said. "Right-wing groups and leaders have taken advantage of poor regions like eastern North Carolina for a very long time."

Rixon said most of the world is scared of the word "socialist" because of the history of the word. He said people do not understand what socialism is actually about, specifically when it comes to the difference between socialism and democratic socialism.

"I think we really need to change the definition of what we think socialism as," he said. "Democratic socialists want to achieve socialism through democratic institutions, so through elections, through voting, through electoral politics really. Socialism is just really the idea of it all."

Rixon said right now the club is focusing on becoming an official ECU club and getting organized before it starts planning campus events for the semester.

Any student who wants to start a club officially through ECU must come up with a constitution for their club. They also must attend the New Student Organization workshop carousel with their club's officers, as well as other workshops on how to run a club at the university.

Rixon said Turning Point has already reached

out about the possibility of having a debate between the two organizations on capitalism and socialism, and the club is open to the idea.

"If Turning Point wants to arrange that by all means, that would be cool," Rixon said.

Daniel Pearce, the president of ECU's Turning Point, said while he may not agree with what the club stands for, he is glad they are coming to the university to represent the other side.

"When you look at the dystopian novels, it's always just one idea, so I think the more ideas the better," Pearce said. "It's better for society, it's better for culture, I think it's better for the academic environment...more ideas and challenging each other and pushing each other to kind of see new points, I think that's always a good thing."

Pearce said the two clubs are already talking about the possibility of doing an event together in honor of 9/11.

"We might not get along on 95 percent of the issues, but that's something we should get along for, and we can overcome our differences for that," he said.

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

REACTION continued from A1

Mercer said. "I've spoken with the city manager and we're looking into this."



Calvin Mercer

Aside from the city's reaction, ECU and student officials spent Thursday and Friday reacting to

The East Carolinian's special report.

"We have no evidence or reason to believe there are any issues with the Greenville Fire/Rescue response to campus for emergencies," Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, said. "I spoke with Chief Griffin Wednesday and he assured us that they're able to respond to emergencies as necessary."

Koch said the university works close with GFR on a number of issues. Because of that relationship, he said the university hasn't seen

any evidence to support the allegations against GFR.

Similar to the administration, ECU's Student Government Association also responded after reading the article.

"I will say this, based on the article, we at SGA, and I as president—any issues or concerns that have the appearance of putting the Pirate Nation



La'Quon Rogers

at risk will always be forefront in our minds," La'Quon Rogers, SGA president, said. "Based on the allegations within the article, yes it raises concerns for us."

Rogers said students should have confidence in SGA to be their best advocates. He added, "SGA is immediately putting our heads together to develop a course of action."

Melissa Glen and Alanna Joynner contributed to this report.

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

DOCTORAL continued from A1

"We thought it fit perfectly with what we are trying to do here," Kropp said. "We already had some experience with the device, and we know that many people in our environment are at risk for a stroke."

For Kropp, this issue is crucial, since eastern North Carolina sits on what he calls the "stroke belt" of the United States. He said because of eastern North Carolina's high poverty rates, many of the residents do not have access to the resources for a healthier lifestyle.

"When you start to look at all those risk factors for cardiovascular disease, you start to realize, wow, eastern North Carolina for many different reasons has a lot of people living with those risk factors," he said.

Kropp said the grant allows ECU to do a study on people who have never been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation but show signs of two or more stroke risk factors. The study requires these participants to screen themselves using AliveCor Incorporated's Kardia Mobile device, in order to see if they have atrial fibrillation and are at risk for a potential stroke.

The device is small and fits on the back of a smartphone, making it portable and easily usable for all participants, according to Kropp.

"The cool thing about it is that it's non-invasive, you can do it from the couch in your own home," Kropp said. "When you put your fingertips on it, it takes an ECG in thirty seconds."

Whenever someone does a

screening, the results show up on the doctor's end as well. Kropp said the idea is for doctors to be more connected to their patients through the device.

Since he received the grant, Kropp has not been short of support from the university. Specifically with the study, he has had help from Dr. Ashley Burch, a research associate professor at ECU, Director of doctoral studies in the Department of Psychology Dr. Samuel Sears, a professor in the departments of psychology and cardiovascular sciences and Nichelle Huber, a fellow doctoral student of Kropp.

Kropp said the goal of the study is to receive at least 250 volunteer participants. Currently, his team has been trying to build relationships with local pharmacies, so they can screen and find participants in a more convenient and effective way.

"Coming from Chapel Hill, I think a lot of people, they are just not aware of the resources we have, and they are not aware of the needs of the individuals that live in this region," Kropp said. "Many of our research participants, many of our patients drive hours and hours just to find medical care, and ECU is sort of a beacon of hope."

Kropp is in his third year of ECU's doctoral program. After he finishes, he hopes to continue with work in the field of health psychology and mobile health.

"I'd like to continue this work," Kropp said. "I'd like to continue critically evaluating how new technology can help patients that are most at risk."

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

ECU, GPD teach students about sexual assault risks

Jessica Merklein
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University Police Department and the Greenville Police Department have been taking the initiative to educate students when it comes sexual assaults, according to GPD's Public Information Officer, Kristen Hunter.



Kristen Hunter

According to One In Four USA.org, one in four women and one in 33 men will be the victim of sexual assault in their lifetime. With these statistics in mind, Hunter said, "We do work closely with the university to provide information to students as far as sexual assault."

Hunter said it is important to always go out and walk home in groups to help avoid an uncomfortable situation.

"It is important for people to be aware of who they are spending time with and to have a buddy system in place," Hunter said.

According to the 2016 Annual Report of Incidents of Alleged Sex Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct and Interpersonal Violence, ECU received

192 reports of incidents involving alleged misconduct between Jan. 1 and Dec. 1 of 2015. Of those reports, 32.30 percent involved sexual assault.

The report also documented that 39.25 percent of reported sexual assaults take place on campus, while 49.29 percent are reported off campus.

ECU provides victim advocacy to students of all genders who are victims or survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking and other violent crimes, according to the ECU Victim Services website.

"The Victim Advocate is available to provide nonjudgmental support and will never force a survivor to move forward with reporting unless s/he wishes to do so," the website said.

Deputy Chief Jason Sugg of the ECUPD said all students need to remember and be aware of the fact most sexual assaults are perpetrated by people they have met before.

"Statistically, the way highest number of sexual assaults occur between acquaintances," Sugg said. "It could be girlfriend and boyfriend, but it is not just limited to a dating relationship."

Sugg said there are instances where the victim does not wish

to report the crime committed against them to the police.

"The university is still going to look into it, even if the victim does not have any police interaction whatsoever, and of course that is their right," Sugg said.

ECU Police wants to make sure that all students and faculty understand if no police presence is wanted, there are a multitude of different resources they can reach out to, Sugg said.

"There are a lot of resources out there on campus that are afforded to students just by the virtue that they are students here," Sugg said. "It does not cost them anything."

Hunter said the issue of consent should always be brought up when it comes to sexual assault.

"In North Carolina, you are impaired to a point, it doesn't have to be that the victim says no, if you are impaired to a point where you are not aware of what's going on, you are considered under the law as not being able to give consent," Hunter said.

Crisis intervention and emergency assistance for victims are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the ECU Victim Services Office, according to the ECU Victim Services website.

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

OUR VIEW

Officials should give community substantial response

On Aug. 31, The East Carolinian published an investigative report regarding alleged misconduct and mismanagement within Greenville Fire/Rescue.

Since the release of the initial investigation, East Carolina University, GFR and the city of Greenville have all been eerily quiet. Officials have either refused to speak with The East Carolinian after multiple attempts, held up or outright stonewalled the publication's efforts to report or provided one sentence answers which were both vague and uninformative.

The East Carolinian has yet to receive any official comment from Chief Eric Griffin, Deputy Chief Brock Davenport or from GFR's Public Information Officer Rebekah Thurston, despite numerous attempts to contact the department. What are our tax dollars paying these people for? Instead, we've been forced to relay all questions regarding GFR through the city of Greenville's Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth.

Rest assured, any move (or in this case, lack thereof) will be scrutinized because the safety of our community depends on an actual response from all parties. Officials on all sides owe it to the community to release a substantial statement. Parents, students and residents of Greenville need to know that these allegations have been acknowledged and are being looked into. We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, will continue to work tirelessly to protect our community with the use of facts.

So, now it's your move GFR. As for ECU and the city of Greenville, you're not off the hook either. We are watching and we'll be waiting for your call back.

OUR STAFF

Annah Schwartz	Editor-in-Chief
Javeria Salman	Managing Editor
Andy Li	Copy Editor
Matthew Prensley	News Editor
Melissa Glen	News Chief
Emily Harvey	A&E Editor
Jose Hernandez	A&E Chief
Kayla Morton	Sports Editor
Aaron Jackson	Sports Chief
Blessing Aghimien	Opinion Editor
Tori Poole	Multimedia Manager
Mattia Mitchell	Social Media Manager
Garrison Cooke	Visual Arts Editor
Paris Silver	Visual Arts Chief
Jessica Evans	Design Chief
Matthew Havelis	Business Manager

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

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

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

Contact Info

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

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Fax: (252) 328-9143

BMF

WELLS FARGO

a thriller by sneaky & greedy bankers



Reading crucial for students

Finding time for books proves beneficial in academia



Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Your Daily Mel

Mystery, romance, thriller, historical fiction, fantasy— there is no limit to the possibilities in one single book, but there is a limit for what one can do without literature.

This weekend, I was able to spend time with my little sister, who, like me, is a certified bookworm. While spending time with her, I was trying to think of a topic for my next opinion column, when I realized the answer was right in front of me— books. Books are all around us, and books are beginning to lose their once ever-demanding audience.

According to a survey the Pew Research Center conducted in 2016, about a quarter or 26 percent of American adults admitted to not reading a single book in the past year. The U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy showed that around 32 million adults, 14 percent of the population can not read, while 21 percent of adults can read but not above a fifth grade level.

We are forgetting the art of reading. Most college students do not read unless they are required to do so for

class. They make up excuses about not having the time or fall into the delusion that the movie is better, but the truth is reading is vital to maintaining a stimulation and passion for learning.

Our brains aren't stimulated like they used to be. The constant evolution of technology may make it easier to access information, but it is taking away from people actually processing the information they are reading. There is no need to learn something when someone can look it up whenever they want. This is lie we keep telling ourselves, and this is what will keep us from challenging ourselves.

Reading is not only a source of entertainment or a hobby, but it has also been proven to help people become more successful. The Fort Dodge Community Foundation did a survey in 2014 which showed that a group of fourth grade students, who read for fun daily, scored the highest on reading assessment tests.

Business owner and multibillionaire Warren Buffett was once asked what the key to his success was. He replied, "Read 500 pages like this every day. That's how knowledge works. It builds up, like compound interest. All of you can do it, but I guarantee not many of you will do it."

Buffett was right when he said

reading is the answer. Not only does reading help improve one's grammar by allowing them to recognize key components of writing themselves, but it also expands one's vocabulary and overall outlook on life.

It can be truly eye opening to open up a book and find oneself in a foreign world with people who have different views and different backgrounds. When people read, they can imagine themselves as the character they are reading about. They can put themselves in that character's shoes, and their empathy for the real world and the people in it grows.

As Oscar Wilde said, "It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it."

Students especially need to take advantage of the benefits that can come from reading. Find a book club or start one of your own. Bring a book on the bus ride to school. Take the books in English class seriously and stop using Sparknotes. The time is now. There are books waiting to be read, pages waiting to be flipped. Find a book and get to reading.

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

Hollywood still lacks in diversity



Amanda Shea
TEC STAFF

There's racism in Hollywood. This topic has been pointed out throughout the past few years, headlined with hashtags such as #OscarsSoWhite. One thing we don't talk about enough is

how we are the first to pat the back of TV showrunners and producers when they cast just one person of color in their shows or movies.

It's amazing to see young kids have someone that looks like them in any type of media, but when we are so quick to applaud showrunners for doing the bare minimum, it's easy for them not to work toward creating a truly diverse show.

Though I'm proud to come from a partially Hispanic family, it's easy to forget how fortunate I was to turn on the TV and see someone who looks like me. I grew up looking completely white and I grew up with white privilege. I grew up with more than enough actresses in roles that felt like me. Others may never have had that chance.

Television staples such as Friends, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, The Office and NCIS would be no different with more diverse casts— the characters shouldn't have to change to "accommodate" a non-white actor. Shows on television should showcase how diverse our world truly is, without sticking characters of color with the same old storylines and tropes.



Actors from U.S. television series *The Office*, which featured a predominantly white cast.

A Latina woman shouldn't have to play a maid, an Asian person shouldn't have to play a nerd and a black man shouldn't have to play a gang member. No matter our skin color, everyone deserves well-rounded characters that speak to them on more than just skin deep issues.

America is the "melting pot of the world," but if TV and film is anything to go by, it certainly doesn't look the part.

It's not to say media hasn't made strides in diversity, but we still have miles to go. More often than not, characters that have been brought in as a "token" character, are sidelined to benefit a white character's storyline and showrunners apparently see no problem with this.

As fans, we need to make our voices heard and speak out about the harmful effects this mentality has on our society. Our world is not all white, so it shouldn't

be portrayed as though it is. Showrunners should work to write and portray storylines with actual depth for characters of color, without expecting praise. Children should be able to flip to any channel on the TV and find someone that looks and acts like them.

As white fans, it's easy for us to have overpowering voices, especially in a society such as ours. It's not our job to speak on behalf of any person of color, but to instead give them platforms where they can share their opinions. Having relatable characters may very well be one of those platforms and we need to make sure we don't silence them. Our job is to hold showrunners accountable when they're in the wrong, even if it doesn't benefit us.

Amanda Shea is a junior majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

EVENTS

TODAY

USMNT vs Honduras
Crossbones Tavern
5 p.m.

ECU Psi Chi & Psychology club interest meeting
Rawl 130
5 p.m.

Pokemon - Monthly Standard Event
Blue Ox Games
6 p.m.

Magic the Gathering - Standard
Blue Ox Games
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Full Moon Paddle
Tar River
6 p.m.

Group run and yoga session
Greenville Town Common
6 p.m.

YuGiOh! - Weekly Wednesday event
Blue Ox Games
6 p.m.

Jazz & Margarita Night
Totopos Street Food & Tequila
7 p.m.



Debbie Daniels, cashier at Todd Dining Hall, swipes a student's 1 Card as she enters the dining hall. Daniels recently received an award from The Ring of Stars. CONTRIBUTED BY KI COLEMAN

Daniels more than just cashier to many

Madison Lawson
TEC STAFF

After just celebrating two years of working at East Carolina University, Debbie Daniels, a cashier at Todd Dining Hall, earned the Ring of Stars award in early August for her hard work and exemplary services.

Todd Dining Hall manager Shenitha Dupree broke the exciting news at the welcome back meeting the staff had on Aug. 5.

"Once we found out she had won the award, we were floored," Dupree said. "It was so hard to keep it a secret for that long and it felt good that I was able to give it to her."



Debbie Daniels

The Ring of Stars is a two-year-old program launched by Aramark, an American food services and facilities provider to clients in fields of education, healthcare, business and more. Aramark provides employees and food to ECU and heard about Daniel's continuous job well done.

"If it wasn't for my babies, all my students that come in here and make me smile, I wouldn't have been able to achieve this."

- Debbie Daniels

"If it wasn't for my babies, all my students that come in here and make me smile, I wouldn't have been able to achieve this," Daniels said.

The Ring of Stars program was created "to honor those who deliver outstanding service to its clients and consumers," according to its website.

To narrow down the winners, Aramark selects only 200 out of 200,000 employees worldwide and ECU's very own, Debbie Daniels, was one of those 200.

"As the winner I get an all expenses paid trip to Phoenix, Arizona," Daniels said. "I'm bringing my daughter with me and the first thing we're doing is going to the spa."

Dupree said although there are numerous hard workers at the dining halls consistently making sure students are happy and well-fed, Aramark made the right decision in honoring Daniels.

"She's a great worker and helps out wherever she's needed," Dupree said. "She gets paid to do it, but to her it's not a job it's something she loves to do."

Born and raised in north New Jersey, Daniels now lives in Greenville, North Carolina and said she spends her days enjoying the simple life. Surrounding her are her four children and three grandchildren she loves spending time with. When she's not working, Daniels enjoys singing in her church choir and talking with new people.

Even though she's always seen with high spirits at work, Daniels admits she too has bad days just like everyone else. Reflecting on all the hardships she has had to overcome, Daniels says her uncle's passing was one of the most challenging. Instead of harboring that sadness, she uses it to fuel her positive attitude every day.

"The hardest part is keeping that smile even when something is bothering me," Daniels said. "But I remind myself that my problems are not work problems and that these students need me, they need love, I'm like their momma away from home."

As a student who frequents Todd, sophomore computer science major Kayla Canton said she feels this love every time she is greeted by Daniels.

"Walking into Todd and seeing Ms. Debbie with her high energy just brightens my day," Canton said. "I appreciate her making it her business to make everyone feel welcomed even when she might be having a bad day; it shows how selfless she is."

It is this contagious smile and "it's going to be okay" attitude that many students need, especially during those stressful test days, Dupree said.

Daniels knows that her face is sometimes the first thing students see in the morning and therefore, she wants to start their days off right.

"The kids inspire me," Daniels said. "I tell them all the time that I wish I had furthered my education. If you stay in school, at the end of the day it will pay off, so push through it!"

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Netflix's 'Death Note' fails viewers



Angel De Jesus
TEC STAFF

"Death Note" is dead on arrival, being yet another failed attempt to capture the magic of Japanese animation in a live action setting.

There was a lot of hype going into this Netflix Original film.

While there are elements that make this film watchable, those elements often create unintentional laughter from the audience.

The film is based on the popular manga and anime series where a high-school boy, named Light, finds a book that grants him the power to murder anyone in whatever way he sees fit by just writing one's name in it. Light is accompanied by a demonic entity who guides him in the ways of the "Death Note."

"Death Note" stars Nat Wolff, Keith Stanfield, Margaret Qualley and the only ray of hope in this film, Willem Dafoe; however, not even his talents could save this nightmare.

First off, the main characters are some of the most unlikable protagonists seen in any form of visual media. They offer no reason or substance for their motives, they are not compelling and they do not have any depth at all. Their personalities change so suddenly that at times the audience wonders if they missed something while watching.

The demonic entity "Ryuk," played by Dafoe, is one character that really serves no purpose for being in the film other than to explain the rules of the Death Note. When he later has cryptic motives and is all of a sudden trying to be compelling, it feels jarring and not in a good-plot-twist



From left, L, played by Lakeith Lee Stanfield, and Light Turner, played by Nat Wolff, confront each other in a coffee shop in "Death Note." COURTESY OF NETFLIX.COM

kind of way. Keith Stanfield, who plays the mysterious "L," comes off as one of the more interesting characters at the beginning of the film and then later devolves into a paranoid maniac in literally under an hour.

To say pacing is an issue is an understatement. This film is so crammed that it feels as if the entire anime series was trying to be shoved into a less than two-hour film, which makes the pacing ridiculously fast. The audience gets no back story on Ryuk, the rules of the book are not explained well and character motives are extremely unclear. All of these aspects make the film feel rushed, cheap and ultimately underwhelming.

At times the film feels like a parody, especially in serious moments. When Light is introduced to Ryuk while he is in

detention, it honestly feels like slap-stick horror. Even if that was a creative decision, it felt out of place. Attempts at humor also fall hard with forced profanity and odd choices for when jokes are appropriate. If there is a positive thing to say about this film, it is that it really tries to please fans of the original series.

This film tries to have fan service by using elements from the original series such as Ryuk's love for apples, L's quirky character traits such as the way he sits on chairs, Light's tense relationship with his father and his god complex. However, even these elements fall flat because they do not do justice to how complex the story of "Death Note" actually is. Light is the biggest disappointment because in the source material, the audience sees his transformation from self-righteous

vigilante to a maniacal tyrant. In this film, Light is an annoying, self serving, anxious and unstable personality that can only be best described as cringey.

Ultimately, this is another failed attempt at bringing Japanese-inspired media to western audiences, much like "Ghost in the Shell" from earlier this year. It is not just that this film does not live up to the original series but at its core, it is just not a well made film. Perhaps this film should be written inside its own "Death Note" to die.

RATING:



1.5 out of 5

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



GK Cafe, located at 3197 E. 10th St. For under \$10, customers can purchase an entree, two sides and a piece of bread. GK Cafe differs from other restaurants by serving different meals each day.



Southern soul food served at local GK Cafe & Catering

Madison Lawson
TEC STAFF

Sitting in a quaint shopping center at 3197 E. 10th St., GK Cafe draws in people from all walks of life with its homestyle cooking and warm atmosphere. Described by the owners as southern soul food, GK Cafe offers Greenville residents a classic and consistent menu.

Hungry patrons can walk into the cafe and get one entree, two sides and a piece of bread for just \$9.58. What makes the cafe unique is instead of having one big menu for customers to choose from, it offers different meal options each day. For example, on Mondays the cafe serves baked pork chops or spaghetti as the main entree with a choice of sides such as mac and cheese and green beans.

"Once we expanded the cafe and had more space in the kitchen, we didn't change (the menu)," co-owner Gail Phelps said. "Some of our customers that we've had for years could tell you exactly what we have each day of the week."

Some other foods customers can find are fresh baked chicken, turkey barbecue, mashed

potatoes, corn, pasta salad, collard greens, country style steak and more.

Long-time customer Johnny Sherrod sat in the cafe with his daughter eating one of his favorite entrees, baked chicken. As a single father, Sherrod said he enjoys bringing his family here as it is both economical and delicious.

"I've been coming here since they opened, I can't count the years anymore," Sherrod said. "I come here on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, those are my days where they cook what I like. I prefer it this way because it's just like mom cooking at home, she cooks different things on different days."

Inspired by their own mother's cooking, co-owners and sisters Gail Phelps and Kaye Roberts wanted to pass down what they have learned and turn it into something great: in this case, GK Cafe and Catering.

"My mother loved to cook, she used to feed everybody in the neighborhood," Phelps said. "I learned from her but it was also God, who has allowed me to use my skills to serve his people."

Before the catering business and cafe

launched in April 2009, Phelps was cooking on a smaller scale for friend's dinner parties and for her church, the Koinonia Christian Center on 1405 Greenville Blvd. It was here she developed the knowledge and skills that would lead her to start her catering business.

"The larger the events grew, the more I realized I needed a bigger space than just my kitchen at home," Phelps said. "One of my greatest experiences was when I had to oversee an event for over 500 people. We ordered all the plates, napkins and silverware and when I stood in front of all those people and said 'welcome,' it all just came down on me and I said to myself, 'wow... look what God has done.'"

In addition to catering events, GK Cafe has sponsored and donated food to local organizations such as ECU sororities and fraternities, the ECU alumni association and the Chris Carter Memorial Golf Tournament.

"It's a part of our heart and passion," Phelps said. "I don't give back because I want something in return, I give back because it's the right thing to do. People come in here from all walks of life and it doesn't matter, we treat them equally."

Just like most businesses, Phelps and Roberts struggled when they opened their doors for the first time. Now almost eight years later, they look back on where they started and how much they have progressed.

"When we started out we had a two burner hot plate, a small fryer and a small oven and that's what we cooked on for five years," Phelps said. "We worked with what we had until we could do better. We didn't get loans, and put all our resources into the business, not to mention the time investment we put into it; it becomes your life."

Despite the hardships, Phelps said it's the good memories that keep her and her family going. Today, the owners of GK Cafe said they plan on continuing to chase their dreams and give back to the community through the only way they know how: their stomachs.

"I want people to walk in here and feel that this place is different," Phelps said. "I want them to not only be satisfied with the food, but feel the love we put into it."

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

Become a writer for the student newspaper

The East
Carolinian

Or

Buccaneer's

yearbook

and make a little history

Last chance tryout
Wednesday, Sept. 6
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The East Carolinian Newsroom
Self-Help Building
Intersection of Evans and Third Streets
(Across from the Pitt County
Courthouse)

Bring a pen, a blue book, and your brain!

Any questions? Contact Cherie Speller @252-328-9238

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Romance blossoms over the next month, with Venus in Libra. Relax and enjoy it. Pay extra attention to financial data, with Mercury retrograde for the next three weeks.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Strengthen home infrastructure. Repair equipment to avoid mechanical or electronic breakdown. Begin a three-week revisionary phase, with Mercury retrograde in your sign. Edit communications well. Polish your presentations.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Make sure to archive what you're writing. Review data over the next three weeks, with Mercury's retrograde. Back up hard drives. Guard against communications breakdown. Keep your patience.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Practice makes perfect over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde, especially with group activities. Nurture old friends and connections. Double-check communications to ensure arrival. Have backup plans.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Be cautious with tools and time over the next several weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Make repairs immediately. Misunderstandings and errors cause delays. Slow down and consider personal passions.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Plan your itineraries for later travel over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Organize and file papers, especially regarding academics. Allow extra time for shipping and delivery. Talk about dreams.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Review joint financial records and budgets, with Mercury retrograde over the next three weeks. Allow extra time for travel, transport, invoices and collections. Double-check numbers. Develop team strategies.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Have patience with communication breakdowns. Resolve misunderstandings with a partner over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Regroup and go again. Context is decisive. Don't sweat the small stuff.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Travel virtually to avoid traffic. Delays, misunderstandings or mistakes could frustrate your work over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Keep tools and equipment repaired. Slow for pedestrians.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Romantic overtures could backfire over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Clarify misunderstandings right away. Slow down around sharp tools. Find your sense of humor, and reconnect.

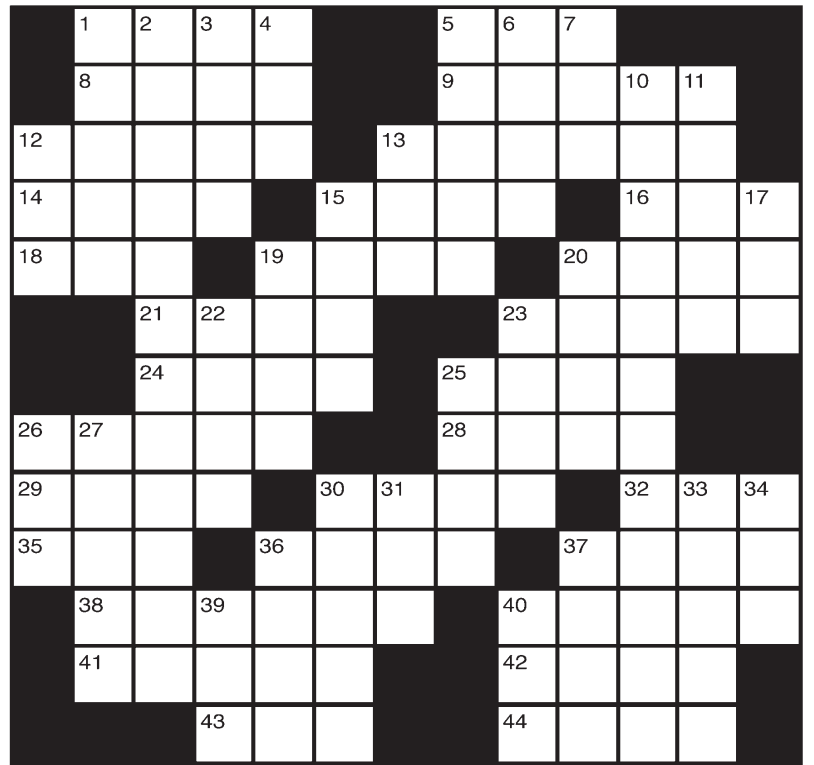
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Household cleaning and organization projects reap rewards over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Go through old papers, photos and possessions. Back up archives and computers. Envision a trip together.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Take extra care with communications over the next three weeks, with Mercury retrograde. Wait to launch creative projects. Reminisce, review, and put in corrections. Save up, plan and prepare.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

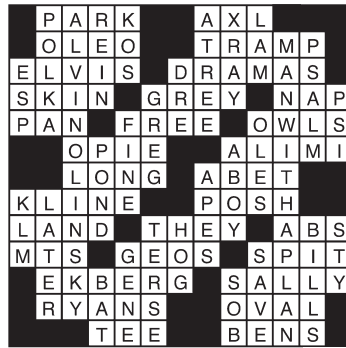
by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 "___ Bloods"
 - 5 "Good Morning America" network
 - 8 "You ___?"; Lurch's line on "The Addams Family"
 - 9 Last name of the family on "Sister Wives"
 - 12 Paved terrace next to a house
 - 13 Colorful rum cocktail
 - 14 "By the Time ___ to Phoenix"
 - 15 "___ the Nation"
 - 16 Actor Ayres
 - 18 Suffix for heir or count
 - 19 ___ Dalton; role on "MacGyver"
 - 20 "The Seven Year ___"; film for Marilyn Monroe
 - 21 Part of the foot
 - 23 "Hush...Hush, ___ Charlotte"
 - 24 Geometric shape
 - 25 "Yes, ___"
 - 26 Cedar Rapids resident
 - 28 "The Sun ___ Rises"; Tyrone Power movie
 - 29 "Batman v Superman: ___ of Justice"; Ben Affleck film
 - 30 ___ Scotia
 - 32 Tasty sandwich, for short
 - 35 Start of "The Streets of Laredo"
 - 36 "Where Eagles ___"; film for Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton
 - 37 Actor Kristofferson
 - 38 "___ I Love My Wife"; Chris Rock movie
 - 40 Actress Pressly of "Mom"
 - 41 Martin or Charlie
 - 42 School in El Paso, for short
 - 43 Pig's home
 - 44 Bills with Hamilton's face
- DOWN**
- 1 Boasts
 - 2 "The Late ___ James Corden"
 - 3 "Law & Order: Special Victims ___"
 - 4 Sense of self-esteem
 - 5 Taken ___; surprised
 - 6 Soft cheese
 - 7 Rollaway bed
 - 10 Lead role on "Scorpion"
 - 11 Brother's daughter
 - 12 Dessert choice
 - 13 "The Bernie ___ Show"
 - 15 "The ___ Guy"; Lee Majors series
 - 17 President Taft's monogram
 - 19 Stapleton or Smart
 - 20 "___ a Male War Bride"; Cary Grant movie
 - 22 ___ Roe of "Madam Secretary"
 - 23 Actress Ward
 - 25 Actor Annable
 - 26 Actress and director Lupino
 - 27 Desert refuge
 - 30 Mary Poppins or Fran Fine
 - 31 Mork's planet
 - 33 Walks haltingly
 - 34 Poet Eliot's initials
 - 36 Count calories
 - 37 Mum to George and Charlotte
 - 39 "___ Just Not That Into You"
 - 40 Stick out

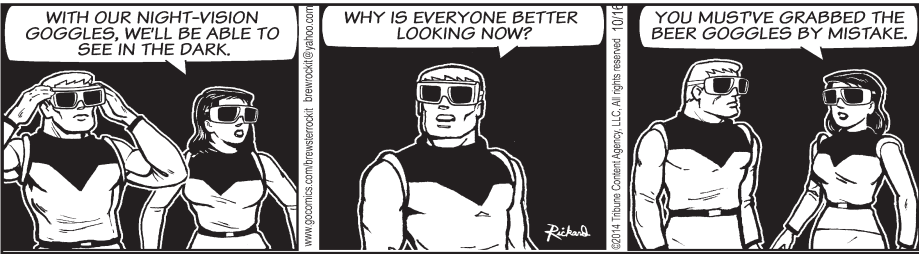
Solution to Thursday's Puzzle



©2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT



BEST IN SHOW



ONE AND ONLY



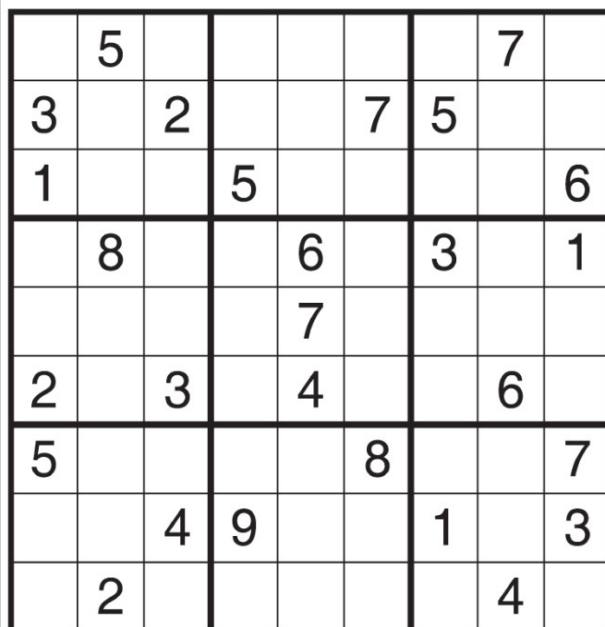
BRIAN JUDGE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

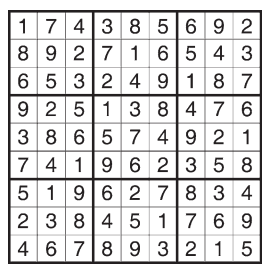
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

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 Thursday



© 2015 The Mephram Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.





COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES

Senior outside hitter Lael Cerani attempts to spike the ball over the net in order to score for the Pirates. Cerani has 40 kills in her last three games.

ECU picks up two wins Volleyball beats Stetson and Bucknell in Invite

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University volleyball team traveled to DeLand, Florida to compete in the Stetson Invitational this weekend just a week after the Pirates went 2-1 last weekend in the ECU Invitational. The team was focused on coming out of the weekend with a perfect 3-0 and a tournament trophy, however fell just short.



Julie Torbett

Head coach Julie Torbett had felt her team was capable of winning the ECU Invitational a week ago, but her team's loss to Rutgers hindered their chance at taking the crown. Coming off that loss, Torbett had three simple, yet attainable goals.

"A tournament trophy, a tournament MVP, and we want to win all of our preseason matches," Torbett said before the tournament. "We want to win all of our matches, so to go down to Florida we're hoping to come back with three wins."

While the Pirates did go a respectable 2-1 on the weekend pushing them to 4-2 on the season, a tough Big East opponent in Providence proved to be a little too much to handle, sweeping the Pirates in 3 sets on Friday, 25-15, 25-15, 25-18.

The Pirates struggled on offense in this game, as they finished with a combined hitting percentage of just .100 compared to the .442 percentage of the Friars. Senior outside hitter Lael Cerani led the Pirates with a hit-

"We want to win all of our matches, so to go down to Florida we're hoping to come back with three wins."

— Julie Torbett

ting percentage of .467 to go along with nine kills, but it ultimately wasn't enough to keep up with the Providence offense. The Pirates were tied at 14 points a piece in the first set before the Friars won 11 of the next 12 points to easily gain momentum. From that point on, Providence was able to pull away with an easy three set victory.

However, ECU was able to brush its early Friday loss off well as it defeated the tournament host, Stetson, in four sets, 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-20.

Pirates' sophomore libero Brandee Markwith had a historic game, tying an ECU school record with 37 digs in a single game previously set by Erika Figueroa on Nov. 25, 2015. To go along with Markwith, Cerani continued her strong play with her own personal records of 20 kills and 13 digs, earning herself her first career double-double. Senior outside hitter Ashton Mares also added a double-double of her own, tallying 11 kills and 10 digs.

The Pirates were able to build off of their win on Friday night with a dominant victory over Bucknell on Saturday. The Pirates had absolute command of the offensive stat categories, beating Bucknell in kills 42-24, and assists 38-23.

Freshman right side Bri Wood, who was named to the All-Tournament team, had a game high 13 kills to go along with a solid hitting percentage of .611. Lael Cerani was also named to the All-Tournament team, and chipped in 11 kills of her own in this game. Cerani totaled 40 kills in the last three games, and continued to show just how important senior leadership can be to this team.

ECU volleyball will look to build off of its last two games with a strong showing next weekend when it hosts the ECU Classic in Greenville. The team will play in four games against Hampton, Gardner Webb, the Citadel and Winthrop over the course of Friday and Saturday, where it will look to continue its success against non-conference opponents.

The Pirates will attempt to improve an impressive record of 40-16 in non-conference matches dating back to 2013, as well as get head coach Julie Torbett her 400th career win. She currently stands at 397 wins, which is the second most out of any head coach in the American Conference.

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

>> CROSS COUNTRY

Tillo-Prats adjusts to ECU, US

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

From Catalunya, Spain to the United States, Nuria Tillo-Prats has had to make some serious adjustments, but that hasn't stopped her from being



Nuria Tillo-Prats

a competitive student-athlete for East Carolina University's cross country team.

Facing these different obstacles at school, Tillo-Prats has not backed down from these

challenges because of her personality.

"I'm so obsessive with the things I do," Tillo-Prats said. "I'm a focused person that if I set a goal, I'm going to work and work until I reach my goal."

Tillo-Prats first had to adjust to speaking English. At first, she couldn't get into a real conversation with others. But within the first three to four months of living in Greenville, she picked up English and was capable of having conversations.

"(Nuria) has had to learn and improve her English and has done so very quickly," coach Josey Weaver said. "With my southern accent,



Josey Weaver

and her being from Spain, we have had to learn to communicate with one another."

Along with the language barrier came the adjustments of being a collegiate athlete in United States. Tillo-Prats said she was used to being a student and training on her own because sports and studying at a university are separate in Spain. She came to America though to pursue a college degree and compete for a college team at the same time. Joining the cross country team at ECU has helped her become better.

"The athletic department, the coaches and the team have helped push me to become better and we all work together to make the team better," Tillo-Prats said. "That feeling of unity of the whole team we don't have in Spain and we cannot study and compete in athletics together is why athletes from Spain come to America."

Tillo-Prats also credits the athletic department for the quality of its track and facilities in her improvement as an athlete.

"These large facilities that are so close to my classes here, we don't have back home in Spain and we have to do everything ourselves," Tillo-Prats said.

Weaver noticed the passion Tillo-Prats had for competing and self-improvement.

"Nuria is someone who will always ask for more to help improve herself," Weaver said. "She is no different than any of our young ladies who want to improve and get better."

Some of the cultural adjustments Tillo-Prats has had to make were the small things such as the difference in timing for her training. In Spain, her training wasn't at six in the morning but when she had time later in the day. Another thing she said she has had to adjust to is the differences in when meals are eaten; back in Spain she ate dinner at 9 p.m., but here she eats dinner at 6 p.m.

Sometimes, Tillo-Prats said she faces the challenge of pushing herself to the point where it becomes overwhelming, but through being social with others and making friends, she has been able to readjust and get back into her work.

"My friends took on a big role by becoming my family," Tillo-Prats said. "And they push me every day to carry on with my studies and doing my best on the athletic side."

She said the friends she made through the cross country team have become her family here and they have helped her the most in her adjustments to the culture and being away from her family, home and friends in Spain.

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

Sullivan opens season with win

Robbie Milton III
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's men's and women's cross country team kicked off its season at the American Athletic Conference Preview at Belmont Plateau Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this past Friday.

"We were pleased with our starting point, we have to stay healthy and continue to get better," head coach Josey Weaver said. "As nice as it was to beat a team in the American Athletic Conference on the men's and women's side, we also got beat by one so I'm just stressing to our athletes right now 'the works not done, it's just the beginning."



Grace Sullivan

Temple took home first place on both the men's and women's side scoring 29 and 30 points respectively, while the Pirates earned 56 and 44 points respectively.

"We were pleased with our starting point, we have to stay healthy and continue to get better..."

— Josey Weaver

Junior Grace Sullivan stood out taking home first place overall in the 6K women's race running a time of 22:05.5. Sullivan was closely followed by Temple's Millie Howard, a sophomore who was 3.1 seconds behind, while third place was won by Lauren Bartels, who was 11.6 seconds behind Sullivan.

"(Sullivan) had some really good girls she had to beat in that race from Temple and Tulane," Weaver said. "She is a completely different person mentally right now, she believes in herself and believes in her team and she definitely got us started off on the right foot and that's contagious."

Sullivan was followed by senior teammate Sarah Hamon who finished in seventh place with a time of 22:36.8. Junior

Victoria Cooke followed in ninth, while sophomore Mikayla Stoudt placed 10th with times of 22:57.0 and 23:03.2 respectively, giving the Pirates four top-10 finishers.

On the men's side, the Abushouk and Ciaccia brothers led the team. Senior Bakri Abushouk finished in fourth place with a time of 26:17.0 followed closely by junior teammate Nick Ciaccia who finished the race in 26:38.5 taking sixth place. The next two Pirates to finish were Dean Abushouk in 15th and Andrew Ciaccia in 17th finishing in times of 27:32.4 and 27:43.7 respectively.

"To be quite frank, I think they wanted more, I don't know how happy they were with their performances but that just tells

me how good of competitors they are," Weaver said.

Junior teammate of the two sets of brothers, Stefano Migliorati finished the race as the next Pirate in 24th place with a time of 28:32.5.

"Stefano is an 800-meter runner in track and not looked at as a cross country runner but I think he showed his toughness by stepping up and being our number five runner," Weaver said.

This first race of the year gave the team a look at the course where they will be competing for the 2017 AAC Championships in late October. But before they can look to that final race of the season they will be traveling to Raleigh, North Carolina to compete in the Adidas Challenge on Sept. 15.

Overall Weaver was pleased with his team's performance but wants the team to focus on the next task which is to continue improving. Weaver plans to train the team hard these next three weeks to help them to improve week after week.

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

Countee to fill in tennis puzzle piece

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

As the go-to guy who has helped win matches for East Carolina University's men's tennis team, senior Kasey Countee has never viewed himself as a star, instead he views himself as a piece of a larger puzzle.

"Even though tennis is an individual sport, I felt like I was playing for something bigger," Countee said.

Countee's history with tennis goes back all the way to his childhood, where he was the first member of his family to become interested in the sport.

"I started playing tennis at the age of four," Countee said. "My dad took me to my first tennis lesson. I was the only one out of my family to play tennis and I kept getting better at it."



Kasey Countee

Countee, who is a native of Cheltenham, Maryland, attended the Bullis School where he had both academic and athletic success. Countee was ranked the top junior tennis player in Maryland by tennisrecruiting.net.

He was a two-time Interstate Athletic Conference Player of the year, and a IAC No. 1 Singles Champion in 2012 and 2013. Countee was also a four-time first-team all-conference player. After having the



Kasey Countee backhands a volley during practice. The Pirates begin their season on Sept. 22.

amount of success he did in high school, he then decided to bring his talent to ECU.

"When I committed to ECU, I didn't have the official visit like other players," Countee said. "I liked the guys and the campus, (and) when I stepped onto the campus it felt like the right place for me."

Countee posted a 13-10 overall record and 10-7 mark in dual singles matches during his freshman campaign. When

sophomore year came, he produced a 19-14 overall singles record, including a 6-4 mark during the fall and a 13-10 record in dual matches where his total wins were tied for the most wins on the team. He finished off the spring with 12 wins in the final 17 decisions of the year.

Junior year, Countee had a 12-7 singles record overall while helping lead the Pirates to a 16-9 record overall with

a 6-0 start in competitive play with a spot in the quarterfinal match of the American Athletic Conference tournament.

"My experience here has helped me on and off the court," Countee said. "As each year passed, I learned what it took to win and I have been able to help the other guys on the team relax."

After playing for three years, Countee has seen both himself, and the team, grow on and off the court. He said the team has had the opportunity to develop chemistry that will help them get farther as a program.

"As a senior, I have to try and be there for the guys," Countee said. "To have six to seven guys younger than me watching me, it motivates me to come to practice everyday and lead by example."

At the end of the year, just like other senior athletes, Countee won't be playing tennis in a Pirate uniform anymore, so this last season will end up being the most important for him.

"It has been a great opportunity to play for ECU," Countee said. "Not many can play tennis or last for all four years. I'll miss playing for my teammates and the school."

With tournament play and the regular season coming up, the question will be if Countee can help the team bring home the conference championship.

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

Newhouse leads program to career start

The Pirates have posted a 4-0-1 record in their first five games of the 2017 season.

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University soccer team remains undefeated after a close fought battle against Old Dominion Sunday which ended in a scoreless draw, and a 1-0 win against Campbell last Thursday.

Despite the bittersweet feeling about Sunday's draw verses ODU, the Pirates are undefeated through five games for the first time in team history. This is also the team's third straight game without allowing a goal, which continues to strengthen the team's defensive dominance.



Rob Donnemwirth

"We understand the system that we're running and we try to limit shots from the outside or from wide positions if there are one," head coach Rob Donnemwirth said. "But Michelle (Newhouse) did have to make a couple big saves tonight and she came up big when we needed it."

Goalkeeper Michelle Newhouse played a major part in Sunday's draw recording a career high seven saves to improve her record to 3-0-1 on the season. Newhouse's goals against average improved to 0.24 in 380 minutes of play.

As good as ECU's defense is, most of its focus was spent on that end of the field. ODU started the game really aggressive on offense that continued throughout the game. The Monarchs outshot the Pirates 18-13 and 7-5 for shots on goal. According to Donnemwirth,

"I'm sort of a process driven coach. If we do the right things, play the right way, I think the results will end up being there."

— Rob Donnemwirth

the game was evenly played and the win could have went to either team.

"I'm sort of a process driven coach," Donnemwirth said. "If we do the right things, play the right way, I think the results will end up being there. Today I thought that was a toss up kind of game and we probably deserved (a) tie in the end but we just got to keep getting better."

ECU's Thursday game against Campbell was another great defensive performance put on by the Pirates, except this time they

were able to find the back of the net to give them the 1-0 victory.

Defender Erin Mikalsen found midfielder Cashlin Copley, who passed the ball to forward Courtney Cash to give ECU the go-ahead goal in the 68th minute of play. This was also Mikalsen and Copley's first assists of their careers.

According to Donnemwirth, while the Pirates didn't get off to a great start, the defense picked it up in the second half as it has all season long, allowing only one

shot on goal and one shot total for the entire half.

"I thought this was the first game maybe that we didn't start well, but as the game went on I think we were able to possess the ball pretty well. I thought we got into the attacking third a lot but that's when our decision making wasn't the greatest," Donnemwirth said. "Pass when you should shoot, shoot when you should pass; those decisions were got good enough. The goal was fantastic, you know, it was a great play by Cash and Cash."

ECU will spend this weekend on the road for its next two games against longtime rivals NC State in Raleigh Thursday at 7 p.m. and against UNC of Charlotte Sunday at 1 p.m.

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

TAKEAWAYS

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The program is still suspended and under investigation, more updates soon to come.

SOCCER

ECU continues its best start in program history at 4-0-1, with upcoming games away against NC State and UNC Charlotte this weekend.

FOOTBALL

After a 34-14 loss in the season opener against James Madison this past Saturday, the Pirates will travel to play West Virginia this Saturday. West Virginia lost to Virginia Tech on Sunday Night.

VOLLEYBALL

ECU competed in the Stetson Invitational this weekend going 2-1 winning against Stetson and Bucknell but falling to Providence in straight sets.

ONLINE



Follow us on Twitter at
@TEC_Sports for
ECU sports coverage.



Tight end Stephen Baggett (86) blocks a defender to create a hole for wide receiver Jimmy Williams (81) during the season opener on Saturday.

FOOTBALL

continued from A1

much of a burden on the defense.

"I think we started to stress our defense a little bit by trying to ask them to go create turnovers and put the pressure on their offense because we weren't doing anything on offense ourselves," Montgomery said. "They felt the stress and the pressure of trying to go make plays the second half because we couldn't move the ball."

Saturday's game was the unveiling of Montgomery's and defensive coordinator

Kenwick Thompson's 4-2-5 defense. While the five defensive backs were able to force an interception and keep big plays in the passing game in front of them, the defensive line was overpowered by the JMU offense, leaving two linebackers to clean up the rest. Obviously, that didn't go so well.

The workload this defensive scheme puts on the linebackers was evident by the Pirates' two linebackers, Jordan Williams and Ray Tillman, leading the team with 14 tackles and eight tackles respectively. Neither player thought the new defense was the problem

however, instead they took the responsibly and know what they have to work on.

"Guys got to be responsible for their gaps," Williams said. "Some guys were not gapped out and that left open gaps every other play. We just got to get that down."

Now it's time for ECU to turn its attention to West Virginia, because if the Pirates have any hopes of winning, none of their attention can be focused on what happened this past weekend.

Going into Morgantown will be a tough task in its own right, but after Johnson became the first running

back to rush for over 200 yards against the Pirates since 2010, WVU running back Justin Crawford demands full attention of the ECU coaching staff. Crawford enters the season as the Big-12's defending Offensive Newcomer after rushing for 1,184 yards, despite starting just four games.

The Pirates will vie to make up for the frustrating loss this Saturday at noon in the home of the Mountaineers. West Virginia is fresh off a loss against ECU's next opponent Virginia Tech.

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