



CRAVE HOSTS V-DAY 'HEARTBREAKERS BALL'

Turn to A4

Volume 92, Issue 10

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Thursday, 2.11.16

Med campus experiences less crime

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

In the first days of this month, East Carolina University has experience high reports of crime, surprising students across campus.

From Feb. 1 to Feb. 9, the ECU Police Department has filed 31 different crime reports, according to their records. Only four of those crimes did not occur within the immediate vicinity or on the main campus of ECU. Crime is down slightly from this same point last year, when the department had 35 reports.

Over the same time period, from Feb. 1 to Feb. 9, the ECU Health Sciences campus, had no reported crimes to ECUPD. The ECU Health Sciences campus includes the Brody School of Medicine and other medically related offices.

According to Mulatu Wubneh, an ECU geography professor, the areas surrounding the medical campus and Vidant Medical Center were specifically designed that way.

"I remember when they were discussing about the land use plan of the area (medical campus), it was agreed there would not be activities that would not be medically related," said Wubneh.

The area surrounding Vidant Medical Center and the Health Sciences Campus is

> **CRIME** page A2



Frustration abounds in triple OT defeat

Craig Moyer
TEC STAFF

East Carolina failed to hold on to a 13-point second-half lead and fell in a triple-overtime thriller to Tulane, 100-92 for the team's third consecutive loss Wednesday night.

The Pirates shot 50 percent from the field in the first half, 12-of-24 and 9-of-13 from the free throw line. ECU's defense frustrated Tulane throughout the first half, causing it to commit 12 turnovers and shoot 41.7 percent from the field, 10-of-24. The Pirates pressure also led to seven steals in the opening half, four of those steals were by Kentrell Barkley.

As the second half progressed and throughout all three overtimes, ECU's defense began to struggle and Tulane began to get easier baskets, which they often converted.

Tulane shot 51.5 percent from

the field in the second half, 17-of-33 and 46.7 percent, 7-of-15, in the overtime periods to finish the game at 47.2 percent, 34-of-72.

"From the 10 minute mark on and in all of the overtimes I felt we looked tired, legged, defensively in particular and they took advantage of it," Lebo said.

The Pirates lost a 13-point second half lead, something Prince Williams attributed to breakdowns in the zone on the defensive end.

"We are up by 13 or so at the 13 minute mark, we could've buried them at that point, but breakdowns on defense in the zone just cost us," Williams said.

ECU passed the ball well in the first half, with 10 assists on its 12 made baskets as well as committing only six turnovers. The Pirates finished the game with 20 assists on their 33 made

> **HOOPS** page A9

ECU head coach Jeff Lebo rubs his eyes in frustration during a second half collapse by the Pirates before a 100-92 triple overtime loss to Tulane.

MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



SATURDAY, SEPT. 3
vs. **WESTERN CAROLINA**



SATURDAY, SEPT. 10
vs. **NC STATE**



SATURDAY, SEPT. 17
AT **SOUTH CAROLINA**



SATURDAY, SEPT. 24
AT **VIRGINIA TECH**



SATURDAY, OCT. 1
vs. **UCF**



SATURDAY, OCT. 8
AT **USF**



THURSDAY, OCT. 13
vs. **NAVY**



SATURDAY, OCT. 22
AT **CINCINNATI**



SATURDAY, OCT. 29
vs. **CONNECTICUT**



SATURDAY, NOV. 5
AT **TULSA**



SATURDAY, NOV. 12
vs. **SMU**



SATURDAY, NOV. 26
AT **TEMPLE**

INFOGRAPHIC BY ANNAH SCHWARTZ

Screening of 'UnMosqued' addresses attendance issue

Nneka Walson
TEC STAFF

The religious studies program will host a special film screening tonight discussing controversial topics within the Muslim community.

"UnMosqued," the film that will be screened, targets the need for change in American mosques. Due to multiple studies conducted by Ihsan Bagby, associate professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Kentucky, this film allows questions to be raised about the disconnectedness of Muslims to their sacred place of worship.

"The film is a documentary," said Lee Johnson, coordinator of the event. "It is a sociological study of the mosques in America and just recognizing the trends that happen within this religious tradition."

Bagby's statistics show that younger Muslims are not as involved in the life of the mosque. Conclusions in the documentary try to explain how this problem arose. According to Johnson, "UnMosqued" gives an explanation to why young people feel disconnected and what it is about the structure of worship that is causing those feelings.

Following the screening, there will be a discussion involving four panelists. Johnson said two of the panelists are members of the religion department that have expertise in Islam. Also on the panel is a professor from the history department that specializes



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Students put on a skit during the Tunnel of Oppression event held last week.

in Egyptian matters and also has a connection with the Islam faith. The last panelist will be a doctor from Brody School of Medicine involved in community discussion concerning mosques and Islamic traditions.

"What they're going to do is briefly react to the film and then help take questions from the general audience," Johnson said.

Although the movie highlights that of Islam faith, Johnson said it sheds light on other topics as well.

"These types of things that they're discussing in the documentary can be translated to young people in the church," said Johnson. "I think it is the same

feeling of disconnectedness from people that operate as spiritual but not religious or unchurched."

Johnson said this film helps to recognize the relation to many communities of faith.

"Religion is an aspect that engages so many other areas," she said. "We have people that are in business, journalism and even medicine. They are realizing that faith is a big aspect in many disciplines."

According to Johnson, the religious studies program is concerned about creating religious dialogue and understanding all

> **UNMOSQUED** page A2

ONLINE

» Handicap accessible playground comes to Greenville Town Commons

» Check out our online photo gallery for more campus, sports and event photos

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Local Humane Society names new director

The Humane Society of Eastern Carolina named Liz Miesnik as executive director this week. Her former assistant, Sistine Burgess, is now shelter director.

Miesnik will now oversee all aspects of the organization including shelter operations, marketing and fundraising. Miesnik has volunteered with HSEC for several years and has served on the Board of Directors. Burgess has been with the Humane Society since 2013 and has held several different positions.

Dowdy hosts Graduation Expo

The Graduation Expo is taking place this week at Dowdy Student Stores. Students eligible to graduate in May are now able to pick up their caps and gowns, purchase graduation announcements, see a display of diploma frames and school rings to over and pick up other information regarding graduation from participating campus departments and ECU organizations.

Students who are unable to attend this week's expo are responsible for contacting Dowdy Student Stores and picking up their caps and gowns. Distance education students are able to request to have their caps and gowns mailed to their home address for a small shipping fee.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper please contact Ryan Clancy, editor@theeastcarolinian.com


ECO-pirates and The East Carolinian would like to remind you to recycle this paper.

SGA candidates set sights on office

Beeson, Brown aim to use experience, new ideas to win

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Two East Carolina University students have taken the first steps in running for executive positions on Student Government Association.

Ryan Beeson, a graduate student majoring in accounting, and Janae Brown, a junior art major, are running on a ticket together. Beeson is running for SGA president and Brown is running as his vice president.

Besson and Brown met at LeaderShape, where they connected on their similar goals for leadership at ECU. Both candidates said they feel as though they have experience that qualifies them for the job.

Beeson was secretary of ECU's Shipmates program his freshman year, which is a program for freshmen and students who are interested in learning more about SGA. He then served on ECU's judicial branch, making him the only freshman accompanied by four seniors.

"That was a really interesting experience, because we worked on bringing everything up to date in terms of the changes that had happened with SGA's constitution during that time," said Beeson.

When Beeson reapplied to be on the judicial branch again, he was elected to be attorney general and served as the head of the judicial

“I am tired of the same student leaders sitting at the table, and it is time for us to eliminate the barriers and get a more random selection.”

-Janae Brown

branch. Beeson worked as attorney general until December of his sophomore year, when he took a study abroad trip to Finland.

Beeson was elected speaker of the house his junior year and served in that post for about a month but he decided to leave school for a short period to be with his family, after his brother passed away that same year.

This year, Beeson became involved with the leadership team for the Student Conduct Board that is responsible for guiding students through the process before they go before the conduct board.

Brown was a Margaret Chase Smith recipient for the Chancellor's Student Leadership Academy. People in the program picked one person who showed the characteristics of a leader.

"It gave me a one-on-one interaction with the chancellor," said Brown.

Brown was also part of the

ad-hoc committee that was involved with sending the recommendation to the chancellor for the renaming of Aycock Residence Hall. She is a graphic designer for both athletic marketing and student activities and organizations.

"My hands are in the pot, and it is time for me to now take this pot and share it with everyone else," Brown said. "Yes, I got these opportunities because I put myself in these positions, but a lot of people don't know about them."

The main platform of Brown and Beeson's ticket centers on diversity, inclusivity, and representation. They want to build a safer and better campus and to show people the importance of networking.

"We want students to get involved and to understand it is about vision, unity, dedication, involvement, responsive, transparency, action and inclusivity in that we will always have

an open ear," said Brown.

Beeson and Brown both want to improve on past SGA's work to represent all of the diversity on ECU's campus.

"I have a lot of knowledge of how things have been done in the past, so going forward I think we have lots of opportunities to improve upon attempts that have been made thus far to make SGA a more representative body of the students," Beeson said. "I've seen this improve over the years, but I think we can do a better job at that."

As a team, these two students want to challenge the norms of leadership for ECU and make administration and students think more about who has a say in the university.

"I am tired of the same student leaders sitting at the table, and it is time for us to eliminate the barriers and get a more random selection," said Brown. "If you continue to invite the same people, you are going to get the same responses."

Candidates have officially started campaigning until they are able to vote at the end of the month. The four tickets will speak at a formal debate on Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

CRIME

continued from A1

intended for "Medical Institutional" purposes. According to the city of Greenville code of ordinances, a "Medical Institutional" zone or "MI" is meant for buildings like hospitals or other healthcare-oriented businesses.

While the area around the medical campus is intended for one major purpose of healthcare, the areas around main campus are more diverse. A majority of the area surrounding ECU's main campus is classified as residential

single family home or zoned for commercial use. According to Wubneh, this difference creates a key issue.

"There is a lot of activity going on the East Campus (main campus) compared to West Campus (medical campus)," said Wubneh.

With a larger concentration of population living in and around main campus, Wubneh said main campus is more likely to see more crime. With the medical campus having a specific use and relatively low residential population, opportunities for crime are not as high. Wubneh said the number

of breaking and entering crimes are higher in and around main campus because of the high residential population than compared to the medical campus.

Between 2012 and 2014, main campus has experienced more crime than the medical campus. According to the ECU Police Crime Statistics, in major crime categories like rape, aggravated assault or burglary, incidents were rare and very uncommon. The number of crime reports regarding main campus are much higher. In the same time period, from 2012 to 2014, there were seven reports of rape, one report

of aggravated assault and 30 cases of robbery.

"I feel we have two very safe campuses," said ECU Police Public Information Officer Chris Sutton.

ECU's campus safety was given an "C" rating, according to Niche.com, a website that ranks universities based on different criteria. Sutton and others do point out that main campus does house a large number of people and that can contribute to the higher numbers of crime.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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UNMOSQUED
continued from A1

aspects of faith in this country. Part of what they do as a club is organize places where meaningful discussions are held about topics that aren't typically discussed in a classroom setting.

"We recognize that this isn't just about Islam," she said. "It's all the same phenomena we see across communities of faith, how young people relate to tradition versus innovation."

Member of the Religious Studies Club, Tyler Beasley, said the documentary will bring forth many discussion topics.

"The conversation that will come from this film through the experts that are on the panel is going to try to foster a respectful discussion on how we should interact with one another," he said.

The documentary will be shown tonight in the Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery of Joyner Library at 7 p.m.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.



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Count the Kisses in our window display for a chance to take home the prize for your sweetie!

Closest guess by Friday, Feb. 12, 2016, by 12 noon, without going over will be the winner!



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*One entry per person, per day. Closest guess by Fri., Feb. 12, 2016, by 12 noon, without going over will be the winner. In case of tie, random drawing will be held from correct entries. No purchase necessary. Winner will be notified by phone or email and must acknowledge claim prior by Mon., Feb. 15, 2016 or prize will be forfeited. Student Store employees not eligible. Sale runs Feb. 8 - 13, 2016. Prior purchases, special orders, and purchases of gift cards excluded. In store only.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Come shop for something extra cute to wear for your special date!

 **Plato's Closet**

PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants.

It's better to be able to look back at college and say "I am so glad I stayed up till 4am to ____," because no one looks back at these awesome years to say "I am so glad I slept!" Go make some great memories Pirates. #partytillsunrise

You're late, son. The poll about keeping the Pirate Rants was conducted a couple weeks ago. Keeping them won.

Let's talk about reproductive rights. MEN DESERVE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TOO. A woman can make a decision to have an abortion, give her baby up, or have the baby and leech off the father for 18 years if she chooses with zero consequences. A man has no say on whether his child lives or die, is given up for adoption unknown to him, or the quality of life of the kid if the woman decides to keep it. Does that sound like equality to you? No, it doesn't, because it isn't.

Great article about the "importance" of SGA elections. I'll definitely get more informed about issues on campus. Unfortunately, I don't really trust some stupid bureaucracy to get any issues resolved.

To the person who wrote a bible scripture on the steps of Slay Hall: No, thank you.

I find it so interesting that people are upset about the rants discussing social/political matters rather than raunchy hook-ups or something. You are literally upset because people are trying to inform others. Yes, there are ignorant, uninformed rants sometimes, but at least important topics are being talked about!

Ron Hinton still salty about losing SGA President TWO YEARS AGO...

WAKE UP! Tax dollars are prohibited from being spent on abortions (Hyde Amendment). When you oppose funding for PP, you are opposing funding for cancer screenings, STI tests, etc. Turn off Fox News and do some research.

Every article in this paper begins with an over-generalization. "The world is still fascinated with the o.j. simpson trial"??? I bet people in other countries have no idea who he is

"Again, you fail at arguing because your grammar is awful. It's "are run by...", not "are ran by." If you're not educated enough to get that right, your argument isn't valid." ...with that logic you might as well just tell everyone whose 1st language is anything but english that their thoughts are irrelevant because they made a simple error in grammar, spelling, or diction.

They did put pirate rants to a vote on the east carolinian website. It was overwhelmingly for keeping them.

Questions regarding rants can be directed to Tyler Kelbaugh at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Poll results

Will you be voting in the upcoming SGA elections?

Yes- 18.7%

No- 81.3%

Poll question

Do you plan on going to any ECU baseball games this season?

Visit theeastcarolinian.com to vote.

Our view

On Friday, Feb. 19, East Carolina's baseball team will begin its 2016 season. The Pirates won the American Athletic Conference last season, and head into this season with their sights set on earning a trip to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska.

We as an editorial staff believe that the team, led by Pirate alumnus Cliff Godwin, deserves a stronger support base from the student body. ECU baseball has consistently ranked near the top of national attendance rankings, however a disproportionate amount of those fans come from the Greenville community rather than East Carolina's student body.

In order to reach out to ECU students, Godwin has developed the strongest social media presence of any current

ECU baseball gives Greenville a winner

Pirate coaches. He has also made face-to-face interaction with the student body a priority through "Cliff's Cab." Godwin has been picking up students and giving them rides to class while informing them about ECU's excellent baseball program.

Godwin isn't trying to drag students out to watch a mediocre team either. This year's squad has the potential to successfully defend their conference title behind their solid pitching staff.

The firing of head football coach Ruffin McNeill proved that ECU and its fans want a winner. Godwin's baseball team provides just that. Greenville may always be a football town, but by overlooking the consistently competitive baseball program the community does itself a great disservice.

Letter to the students

On Jan. 25, the Student Government Association passed a resolution to support Connect NC, a \$2 billion bond package that will provide essential support to East Carolina University as well as the entire eastern North Carolina region.

Half of the total bond package will go to support the University of North Carolina system, specifically focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) facilities and initiatives.

If state voters pass the Connect NC bond, ECU would receive \$90 million for a new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building. This 150,000-square-foot facility would include the Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing Center of Excellence, classes, and research and lab space for bioprocess and biomedical engineering. It would also be the new home for the Department of Biology.

The bond has many benefits, but as students we need to realize what this will mean for us.

Did you know during the 2014-15 academic year that: more than 17,000 ECU students took biology classes; another 7,000 students participated in biology labs; 39 percent of the degrees and certificates awarded were in STEM and health-related areas; and approximately 1,300 students majored in either biology or engineering.

The job market in the life sciences field is

Connect N.C. bond aids ECU

expected to grow by more than 20 percent in the next five-to six years, and the new Life Sciences and Biotechnology Building will put ECU in the perfect position to prepare students for transforming their education into career placement.

East Carolina has three times the number of students now as compared to 1969, when the Howell Science Complex opened. Few would disagree we are long overdue for a new facility. Now is the time to make this happen.

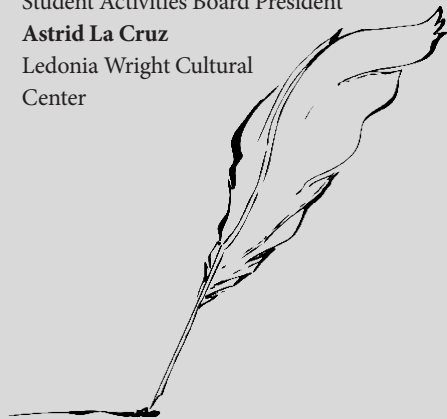
Athletics programs and facilities have grown to become benchmarks in the American Athletic Conference and across the country. Now is the time to show our support in strengthening our academic commitment to student success.

This is the first statewide bond referendum since 2000, which funded ECU's Science and Technology Building and the Health Sciences Building. And this bond requires no new taxes.

As fellow students in the Pirate Nation, we want you to understand you have a voice in helping ECU get this much-needed financial boost. We encourage you to vote "Yes" for education. Vote "Yes" for ECU. Vote "Yes" for students. On March 15, vote "Yes" for the Connect NC bond.

For more information about Connect NC, visit www.connect.nc.gov.

- Mark Matulewicz
Student Government Association President
- Don Donaldson
Black Student Union President
- Jonathan McDougle
Residence Hall Association President
- Dallas Weaver
Interfraternity Council President
- Tameshya Dockery
National PanHellenic Council President
- Danielle Naftali
Panhellenic Council President
- Rohan Parekh
MultiCultural Greek Council President
- Derek Fuller
ECU Ambassadors President
- Ashley Griffith
Student Activities Board President
- Astrid La Cruz
Ledonia Wright Cultural Center



Gang members: America's bastards



Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

EVERYBODY HATES KAI

Discussion classes in college can get really intense, and one heated discussion in my Media Effects class was terrorism. Someone mentioned how the media causes the general public to believe that Muslims are the only terrorists in the world, sparking controversy, but the opinion that interested me the most was that gangs are terrorist.

Gangs do indeed match the denotation of terrorism, as terrorism is defined as "the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims." America's attitude to swiftly fix everything, shows up in how it deals with gangs long term.

An anti-Obama ad, one that attacked him for refusing to use the death penalty to cut down on gang violence, inspired our class to start this conversation. The ad represented everything that is wrong with America, where we always put bandages over broken bones. Forget about the roots of the issues; everything must be fixed right now.

You can't stop gang violence by just scorching and burning the ground like a William Sherman. These gang members live to die. Gangs continue gaining membership because of the need to be apart of something or out of a need for survival.

The reason so many have to fight to survive is because America doesn't put enough resources into education. When you are uneducated or poorly educated, your chances of getting a job that can provide enough for your household decrease. So then you have to move into low income, possibly government assisted, housing. And in this community, there are 200+ people just like you: uneducated, hungry, and poor.

At some point it becomes a life and death situation, because you must eat to live. And when it's a life or death situation, right and wrong goes out the window. If committing a crime is what it takes to live, just about anyone would break their moral code. These crimes, however, create a stigma to the police that the people in low-income neighborhoods are all criminals and below them. Which makes it easier for them to kill these people, beat them, and other dishonest things that police do.

This in turn leads to these gangs that will support each other through life and death. With these people being uneducated they are very susceptible to gangs. Gangs create a sense of togetherness, and then through drug trafficking and racketeering they put money in your pocket and offer support against the police. Gangs offer hope.

Some people read that and say personal responsibility, because of the isolationist society we live

in; it's all about me and me only. But the country fails the people by underfunding these special needs areas which creates a cycle for these gangs to prey on. Instead of educating these people and having police build better relationships in these areas, they just incarcerate the people and allow the cycle to continue.

Gangs are the bastard children of America. America created an environment for gangs to prosper and now does not want to claim the problem. It would rather hide the evidence.

Gang violence is horrible. It has destroyed lives, families, cities, and towns. Towns like my hometown in Goldsboro, where in 2013 we had higher arrests per capita rate than Chicago at one point. I see the same attitude towards the violence in my hometown.

The people scream for peace, the violence continues, the police continue to incarcerate, and the city continues its same policy of underfunding the urban schools. You can't put a bandage on broken bones and expect it to heal. Until the government nationally figures out that quick fixes just don't work and lead to the problem becoming worse, gang violence will only grow worse.

Kai Jones is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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72 hours
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Emerge Gallery & Art Center
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Thursday- Sunday

FRIDAY

Second Friday Square Dances
Crave Restaurant & Bar
7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

YC 3rd Annual Mardi Gras
Greenville Convention Center
10 p.m.- 2 a.m.

SATURDAY

Valentine's Day with Bombadil
Christy's Euro Pub
9:30 p.m.- 11:59 p.m.

A Night to Paws Gala 2016
The Private Estate of Dr. Greg and Heather Davis
7 p.m.- 11 p.m.

SUNDAY

Valentine's Dinner
Crave Restaurant and Bar
5 p.m.- 11:59 p.m.

Prints Charming- 4th Annual Live Screenprinting Event
Art Avenue
6 p.m.- 11:59 p.m.

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THURSDAY

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4:00 p.m.

Friday

Yigal Azrouel
11:00 a.m.

Cushnie Et Ochs
3:00 p.m.

Nicole Miller
6:00 p.m.

Saturday

Rebecca Minkoff
12:00 p.m.

Herve Leger
1:00 p.m.

Monique Lhuillier
7:00 p.m.

You can watch a livestream of the shows at nyfw.com



Crave to host Heartbreakers Ball

Arvanna Smart
TEC STAFF

Rebecca Seftor
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

With Valentine's Day approaching, the Heartbreakers Ball, hosted by Chocolate Milk Club, will offer a different alternative for those not wanting to participate in the usual lovey-dovey shenanigans of Valentine's Day.

The Heartbreakers Ball was created to pay homage to the old Headbangers Ball, a TV program that showcased the unpopular, darker side of the music industry. The event will include performances from four bands of various genres.

"Bands like Witchwells and No

Brainer have been around for a while keeping the scene alive, but it's still dwindling," said Dylan Wicher, event coordinator.

Wicher is the founder of the event planning and adventure management company, Chocolate Milk Club. Chocolate Milk Club was started two years ago as a company to help support local artist.

"This is the first of many [events] to try to get the music scene of Greenville back on its feet," said Wicher.

The Heartbreakers Ball will contain original pieces from artists First Marriage, No Brainer, Witchwells, the Wet Boys and DJ Tyme. Audiences may recognize

some of the artist as the main band has performed before in Greenville at the annual Spazzfest.

First Marriage, No Brainer, Witchwells and DJ Tyme call Greenville home, whereas The Wet Boys are a band from Virginia.

The Wet Boys specialize in a mix of Delta blues and punk rock genres. The band was formed three years ago with Tomahawk Brock, Ryan Anderson, Andrew Bancroft, Ryan Moore and Chris Hendershott.

"We have many different styles of music from electronic DJ music to punk to metal to folk," said Wicher.

According to Wicher, the idea for the showcase came about to help

out local artists in the Greenville community and to revitalize the live music community in downtown Greenville. All of the proceeds from the event going towards the Fifth Street Players Theatre Company.

The Heartbreakers Ball will be at Crave with doors opening at 8 p.m. with the first performance beginning at 9 p.m. The event will be \$15 and is limited to 18 and older.

"I love music and I think that Greenville's music scene is dwindling and it needs to be brought back to its former state," said Wicher.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

WEB PHOTO | REVERBNATINO

Party-goers and band members make a toast at last years event. This Valentines Day, event planner Dylan Wicher hopes to reinvigorate the Uptown music scene.

Student empowers with dance

Anh Ha
TEC STAFF

For Najee Brown, a senior public relations major, dancing has been a form of liberation and empowerment throughout her entire life, and having developed an immense passion for the pastime, began hosting her own dance classes to share that passion with others.

"I've been in dance since I was two," said Brown. "The first dance company I joined was when I was

six years old. [In high school] I did color guard and dance team. Here at ECU, I'm in the F.A.M.E. modeling troupe."

Brown's experience with F.A.M.E. and passion for dancing inspired her to host her own classes. However, she wanted to incorporate the feelings of liberation and empowerment that she receives from dancing into the classes.

Brown and her best friend, Bianca Butler, began hosting "Seductive Saturdays," which teaches

women how to perform various hip hop dances and techniques, but emphasizes becoming attuned to your body.

"We started teaching these classes to kind of give a sense of liberation," said Brown. "We market it as a way for you to please your man, but in actuality, it's for the women to please themselves. It's really going into that deeper 'diva,' that's what we call it, and pulling that sensuality out from the mirror."

Not only does Brown believe

the class fun, but it is helpful.

"There was one girl who was sexually abused," said Brown. "Because of her experience, she struggled with being free in her body. Obviously the class wasn't the only thing that helped, but it pushed her to be in love with herself again."

In addition to helping relieve stress, this class aims to help women become more confident in their body.

> BROWN page A6

GMOA to make martinis at Artini

Anh Ha
TEC STAFF

Alnasia Daniels
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Today, the Greenville Museum of Art (GMOA) is bringing some early Valentine's Day love with its annual "Valentinie Artini" event.

"We started doing it about seven years ago," said Charlotte Fitz, executive director of GMOA. "They are the little artinis parties that we do. Martinis are the focal point of these events."

GMOA's artinis parties are a chance for people to get together without all the hassle and rush of the downtown craziness.

"At the time when we started, there [was only] a lot of bars and places [open] that people who have just gotten off of work might not enjoy going to," said Fitz. "They may just want to come, grab a martini and some hors d'oeuvres and mingle with their friends."

Artinis parties are also a way for the museum to reach out to the community.

"It's a way for people to socialize, but also a way for the museum to be relevant," said Fitz. "We want to be known as a social meeting place. The museum is working on diversifying itself in terms of



SHANNON MURPHY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The different art mediums created at the various Artinis events are displayed throughout the Greenville Museum of Art.

the activities that we can offer the community. We want to keep creating interesting and cultural events."

GMOA hosts three artinis per year and each come with it's own theme.

"We have a 'Halloweenie Artini,' 'Valentinie Artini' and a summer artini," said Fitz. "The summer ones are always theme-based on whatever our committee decides to do. Last year, it was pirates. [The attendees] like the holidays that the

parties are based around because there's always a theme.

Aside from food and drinks, the museum will have a couple of activities to occupy the guests.

"There will be a little dance from the NC Academy of Dance Arts," said Fitz. "[The event] will also have valentine making and a kissing booth."

The event welcomes anyone who wants to attend, such as singles looking for a fun night with friends or couples looking for a

date night idea.

"Lots of times we'll have maybe a group of girlfriends come and just mingle around," said Fitz. "Other times, couples who want to spice things up and doesn't want the run-of-the-mill kind of date will attend."

The event costs around \$20-\$35. It will be from 6-9 tonight at the Greenville Museum of Art. Childcare is provided with a 50 percent discount at Playdate.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

COLUMN

'Formation' generates conversation



Kai Jones
TEC STAFF



Arvanna Smart
TEC STAFF

Beyonce's new single and video "Formation" can be described with only one phrase: "I'm black and I'm proud."

While the definition of formation is the action of being formed or the act of forming something, Beyonce takes a new twist on the word as she sings lyrics like "Okay, ladies, now let's get in formation, I slay. Okay, ladies, now let's get in formation."

Beyonce claimed the pro-black image loud and clear, as she celebrates the culture that she was raised in. She carries hot sauce in her bag, loves cornbread and collard greens. She loves Red Lobster, a pretty cheap restaurant for someone like Beyonce, but in the black community Red Lobster is a favorite.

Beyonce also addresses the illuminati suspicions head on, calling them "corny." Throughout the song she lets the listener know she has money and power.

The first image viewers are put in contact with is one of Beyonce standing on top of a police car being taken over by

water, in New Orleans, as Messy Mya asks in the background "What happened at the New Wil'ins?" This part of the video pays homage to the late New Orleans YouTube sensation Messy Mya, who was an advocate for the African-American community after Hurricane Katrina.

Standing in the hallway of a colonial style home, dressed in colonial style clothes Beyonce dances to the lyrics "My daddy Alabama, My momma Louisiana" as the camera pans over to her daughter while the lyrics switch to "I like my baby hair with baby hair and afros." She also embraces her big nose. "I like my negro nose with Jackson Five nostrils."

The video continues to go through more scenes that highlight the parts of the African American community that are looked down upon or misunderstood such as the wearing of weave and wigs, the second line parade and the Mardi Gras Indians.

The first image viewers see with Beyonce standing on top of a police car is repeated throughout the video as the police car goes under the water more and more with each shot taken.

"You know you that b***** when you cause all this conversation" are some of the last lyrics heard on "Formation" with the image of a row of cops standing in a line with their hands up as to follow the example of a young African American



WEB PHOTO | YOUTUBE

Over the weekend, Beyonce released her new single which demonstrates black culture and the political disputes surrounding the community.

child standing with his hands up showing that Beyonce knows this song and video will strike up a political debate.

The cameras pan to the image of a brick wall with the words spray painted on it "Stop shooting us" as one of the last things viewers see.

Beyonce is one of the black megastars that gets criticized for not being out front of issues like police brutality and other things that affect the black community. But with this single and her performance at Super Bowl 50, she has endeared herself by stepping out front and taking a clear stance on an important issue.

The social stand she takes by telling black women be yourself and be happy with who you are is important, because there is a lack of black women within the media spotlight. The spotlight is shed on lighter pigment women, and women of different races. Which can cause image problems

for black women who do not fit the spotlight's ideal look.

Beyonce taking a stand for black people, and more specifically black women, will cause people to be upset, because pro-black correlates in some people's mind as anti-white. Her going against police is not a message to hurt police, but asking police to stop killing unarmed people shouldn't be too hard. And her using the black panther look on her dancers is not the same as the KKK. The Black Panthers were a group of people who lived in the same community that formed, and they carried legal firearms for protection, gave food out to each other, and protected each other from the dangerous LAPD.

Beyonce has enriched black history month this year, the way no artist has in a long time, by providing a pro-black anthem.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

Film fest celebrates local films

Jennifer Hines
TEC STAFF

Alaina Corsini
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



Tomorrow, Pitt Community College will host the Eastern NC Film Festival Fundraiser honoring Black History Month and African American actors.

The film festival, put on by Kaleigh Entertainment Group, will premiere three local, independent films which feature African American actors and filmmakers. There will also be a question and answer session where those involved in the films get a chance to discuss their work.

Ron Cooper, Director of the Eastern NC Film Festival, said all three films will express messages that will do justice to the Black History Month theme, but one entitled "Wolf Call" is especially intriguing.

"Wolf Call" is based around an actual interview that took place in 1955 where three white men were interviewed on the death of a black male.

"It's a phenomenal film," said Cooper. "I have really no idea how to describe it. I have never seen a film like this before. And that is by director Rob Underhill, which is probably one of the top filmmakers in North Carolina."

This is not the first year that Kaleigh Entertainment Group has produced this event. Their film festivals have gained popularity over the last three years they have been produced.

"The first year, we had about 30 films," said Cooper. "Last year, we had about 178 films, probably 70 of them from overseas."

This fundraiser serves as a way for the Eastern NC Film Festival group to continue

> FILM page A6

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BROWN

continued from A4

“Many women thinks that you can’t be really sexy and sensual in public,” said Brown, “But it’s okay to still be proud of your body and feel beautiful within yourself.”

Brown said there have only been three classes so far, but the response she has received has been very positive.

“They want us to do more and we just found an off-campus site [for the classes],” said Brown. “Hopefully, we can reach out to the community more and get more people involved.”

To Brown, dance is as equally relevant as other artforms.

“People don’t think it’s a form of expression,” said Brown. “They go to to see

art or poetry, but dance gives you just as much of that free feeling. People don’t know what [dance] has to offer. Just watching the show doesn’t really tell you how much [effort] those students really give into [perfecting] their crafts.”

For Brown, the emotions you get while performing can only be felt when you get on stage.

“For those who don’t perform, you wouldn’t really know how it feels,” said Brown. “Being able to actually see everyone’s reaction and hearing their cheers, you get this incredible sense of pride.”

Brown said dance can also be a leisure activity for those who just want to do it for fun.

“People see us perform but they’re not thinking ‘Oh, maybe I should get involved,’”

she said. “But if they had the option to just freely come to a class and let it out, then they usually say ‘Oh, this is actually nice.’”

Watching a performance could be an alternative for those who doesn’t like to dance.

“You can learn a lot from dance,” said Brown. “You can use dance to tell many stories. If you really pay attention and watch for the scenery, music, and lights, each dance will give into that mood. People don’t understand until they really sit down and watch a show.”

Seductive Saturday will be held Saturday at Katura Dance Academy at 12 p.m and participants can register online.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

FILM

continued from A5

to produce these festivals and to serve those in and out of the industry. “[It is for industry professionals] as well as people who are not in the industry so they can come out and see people who are doing films,” said Cooper.

Cooper feels that the independent films in North Carolina need to be brought to center stage instead of the multi-million dollar films that everyone hears about. In 2012, “Iron Man 3” was one of four major films filmed here in North Carolina.

“What no one heard about were the 400 independent films that were filmed here in the same year,” said Cooper. “And what we try to do is to spotlight those independent

films. There’s films being made in North Carolina all the time, but if it doesn’t have a \$200 million budget, nobody talks about it.”

Cooper expressed that there should be a spotlight on independent films, along with the growth in the business.

“We’ll also have a networking opportunity so that people in the industry can get to know each other, develop resources, all of that,” said Cooper.

The Eastern NC Film Festival Fundraiser begins tomorrow at 6 p.m. at Pitt Community College and moves to the cocktail party at Crave Restaurant and Bar at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Classifieds & Puzzles

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Thursday 2.11.16

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PUZZLES

SUDOKU

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Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE 2/11/16

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

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

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FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Quibble
4 Like the NCAA basketball three-point line
9 Phantom's place?
14 Toothpaste tube letters
15 Chevy SUV
16 Honeydew, for one
17 Drop the original strategy
19 Printing heavyweight
20 Aspersions
21 Nickname for Basketball Hall of Famer Maravich
23 Euler's forte
25 Commencement opening?
26 Online reminders
28 Dilapidated digs
33 Attribute to, as blame
34 Fish order
35 "What ___ care?"
36 One always looking up
40 Zeta follower
41 Soccer followers?
42 Causes of many Alaskan road accidents
43 High-end neckwear
46 Declines to raise
47 Bard's bedtime
48 Machu Picchu denizen
49 Shield bearers
55 Leave out
58 Hot
59 Novel surprise ... and a hint to what's hidden in 17-, 21-, 36- and 49-Across

DOWN

1 Complainers
2 "People" person
3 She beat out Madeline Kahn, with whom she shared the screen, for Best Supporting Actress
4 Org. that publishes weekly player rankings
5 Lauren et al.
6 Tazo choice
7 Long spans
8 Collector's target
9 Filled, folded fare
10 Sneeze cause
11 Ultimatum word
12 Jicama or ginger
13 Actress Hathaway
18 Stumper?
22 Rowing crew, perhaps
24 St. formed from the Southwest Territory
26 Duel tools
27 "The Untouchables" gangster
28 Hotel reservations
29 View from Lake Geneva
30 Chihuahua "Ciao!"

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17			18							19				
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64						65							66	

Tuesday's Answers

P	O	S	T	E	R		T	A	R	O		N	E	D
A	C	C	E	D	E		A	B	E	D		E	M	U
G	A	R	L	I	C		C	L	O	V	E	W	O	N
E	L	I	S	E		L	I	M	O	S		G	T	S
R	A	P	T		S	E	A	B	I	S		C	U	I
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R	O	C	K		G	A	R	D	E	N		S	A	F
E	N	L		E	M	E	E	R		K	O	R	E	A
M	O	O		T	A	B	L	E	T	E	N	N	I	S
I	N	C		B	L	A	T		B	E	M	I	N	E
T	E	K		Y	E	R	S		S	L	E	E	T	S

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Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- You're getting stronger today and tomorrow. Ask for what you want. The conversation is half the fun. Things fall together for you. Balance mental, emotional and spiritual health with regular practices. Take a walk outside.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Finish up tasks today and tomorrow. Your intuition is especially strong. Think about what you really want, and imagine it happening. What did it take to get there? Map the steps and begin.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Group and community activities go far over the next two days. Make sure what you build is solid. Pass along what

you're learning. Friends show you a view you hadn't considered. It could be fun.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Take on more responsibility today and tomorrow. Make decisions and strategize your professional plan. You can solve a puzzle. A rise in status is possible. Provide valuable information and your influence grows.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- You'd rather play than work for the next few days. Get into an expansion phase. Write down long-range goals. Travel and adventure suit your ambitions. Study and plan your itinerary. Make reservations.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Study ways to make and keep money. Handle financial matters today and tomorrow. To avoid problems, play by the book. Review your budget, and set logical steps to attain goals. Negotiate and discuss.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Strengthen a partnership with love and attention over the next few days. Negotiate shared plans. Listen, and speak your piece. Together, you can move mountains. Support each other. Give up something to go further.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Focus on your work for the next couple of days. The pace is picking up. Pour on the steam, and check tasks off your

list. The excellent job you've been doing reflects well on you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Romance and passion recur as themes today and tomorrow. Someone nearby has your attention. Use your charms and wit. Savor delicious conversation. Practice your arts. The more you play, the more skillful you grow.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Get fully into a household project. Family comes first today and tomorrow. Play with long-term plans, and take steps toward fulfilling a dream. Double-check materials, and compare prices. Make necessary upgrades.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- You're especially clever with words over the next few days. There's no such thing as a stupid question, but your timing could be off. Review your lists. Study. Assimilate. Express your view. Get philosophical.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Tap another source of revenue. The next two days are good for business. There's money coming in (and going out). Pay bills before splurging. Track the flow to minimize leakage. You could do quite well.

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Senior women's golfer Frida Gustafsson Spang follows through on a swing. Spang was named the American women's Golfer-of-the-Week.

Spang finishes first

Tori Poole
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

After a long three months in the off-season, senior golfer Frida Gustafsson Spang picked up where she left off by recording her fourth individual title in the UCF Challenge in Orlando, Florida, Tuesday.

The women's golf team traveled to the event Friday to start practicing for its first tournament of the 2016 spring season. The three-day event was held at the par-72, 6,349-yard Eagle Creek Golf Club. The Pirates tied for fifth of 17 teams (28-over, 892), but Spang, the American Women's Golfer-of-the-Week, outshined the team with her individual performance, finishing with 3-under (213) to earn the title.

"I feel really good," Spang said.

"After putting in hard work in the off-season on my swing technique, I know now that it paid off...Overall it was a great tournament and good experience to start the season,"

Going into the final day Spang was tied for first with Missouri's Michelle Butler, with a score of 141. Spang jumped ahead early by scoring 1-under on the tenth hole. The two then stayed even both continuing to make par, until the 15th hole where they both shot 1-over. Butler then shot 1-under on the final hole, but Spang finished strong by coming out even to take the win. Spang registered three birdies in her first seven holes allowing her to take a five-shot lead and coasted to a three-shot victory over Butler.

Spang carded an opening 73 (1-over)

on day one. She began with a birdie on the first hole and shot a 2-over 37 on the front nine. She then pared the tenth hole, before recording her second birdie of the day on the eleventh hole. The senior finished the day with a 1-under 36 on the back nine, placing her in a four-way tie for eighth place.

Overall during the tournament the senior posted 10 birdies, 37 pars both to rank among the tournament leaders. Spang admitted that she was nervous going into the final holes because she was so close and did not want to give up the win. Once the tournament was over and Spang was announced the winner, she said she felt relief.

> GOLF page A9

BASEBALL

Outfield takes on new look

Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

East Carolina's baseball team last year could be compared to a big machine that needed all it's cogs moving in the right order. A big part of that machine was the outfield that returns some of those cogs and welcomes in some new pieces this season.

"We got more athleticism out there," said second-year manager Cliff Godwin. "We got some newcomers with Justin Dirden, Dwayna Williams-Sutton, who provide some athleticism. They're guys that are physical when you look at them, but also they can really run and they can hit the ball out the park."

Dirden was ranked as the 277th high school prospect in the nation last season. He batted .506 with 27 runs batted in his senior season.

Williams-Sutton was the 775th draft pick in the last MLB draft. He went to Greenfield in Wilson where he had an all-time great career as a three-sport athlete. In soccer he scored 52 points. In basketball, he averaged 12 points, six

rebounds, four steals and three assists per game and in baseball, as a senior, hit .574 with 17 RBI in a state championship run. Greenfield retired his number.

While Godwin is excited with his young crop of outfielders, he will rely on veteran seniors Garrett Brooks, Parker Lamm, and Jeff Nelson on opening day.

Brooks batted .270 with 14 RBI and only one error on 116 chances last season. One of the team's three captains, Brooks looks to man center field.

"We got guys from all over in left field, right field, center field, there's just that much depth," said Brooks. "Our freshmen are ready to go, they're under our wing. We have more starters than we do people that don't play, anybody can play anytime."

Manning the corners will likely be Lamm and Nelson, though that could change given the breadth of young talent that Godwin welcomed in.

Lamm batted .238 with 10 RBI, with 56 chances. He had only

> BASEBALL page A9

TAKEAWAYS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pirates (10-14, 2-9 AAC) fell in triple overtime to Tulane, 100-92 Wednesday night in Minges.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ECU (9-15, 3-9 AAC) dropped a 75-67, overtime game to SMU on the road Tuesday.

WOMEN'S GOLF

ECU's Frida Gustafsson Spang was named the American Women's Golfer-of-the-Week after finishing first in the UCF Challenge Tuesday.

FOOTBALL

The Pirates added freshman place kicker Jake Verity to its 2016 signing class.

SOFTBALL

ECU will open its season Friday in Arizona against Virginia in the Kajikawa Classic.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Pirates travel to Connecticut for weekend bouts with the Huskies and the Temple Owls.

ONLINE



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Softball set for opener

Allison Jobe
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina softball team prepares for its first tournament of the 2016 campaign and first under new head coach Courtney Oliver as they travel to Tempe, Arizona, for the Kajikawa Classic starting on Friday.

The Pirates began preparations for the season with a three-hour practice on Jan. 12 to get them ready for the Kajikawa Classic. ECU will be facing Virginia and Seattle on Friday, followed by UC Riverside and Arizona State on Saturday. The Pirates will close out the weekend facing Nevada on Sunday.

"I think the team is going to be fine once we get the first game jitters out of the way and we get a couple games under our belt and we're going to be in good shape," Oliver said.

The last time ECU faced Virginia and Arizona State, it was defeated on the field, but the Pirates were able to come out on top of Seattle and UC Riverside in the last meetings between the schools.

"Right now we're really excited for the week. We're just preparing and getting our last practices in, helping the girls feel better, feeling confident going into the weekend," Oliver said.

Entering its second year of membership in the American Athletic Conference, ECU was selected fifth in the pre-



MICHAEL SEEGARSI THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU softball senior shortstop Casey Alcorn tosses the ball. The Pirates open their season Friday against Virginia.

season coaches poll. UCF was voted as the favorite to win the 2016 conference title, as they won back-to-back AAC softball championships.

Last season ECU competed as a member of the American for the first time and finished fourth in the conference standings. The Pirates picked up victories over USF, Memphis and UConn, helping them to a 7-11 league ledger, despite their 16-36 overall record.

"I feel like we're well prepared. We've come really far since last season.

I think we've prepared ourselves to compete with everyone this weekend as far as Arizona goes," senior outfielder Meredith Mitchell said. "We have all come a really far way this year as a team and individually and we have worked hard to come together as one since the fall."

ECU finished its 2015 campaign facing the then No. 5 seed USF in the quarterfinals of the AAC Tournament. The Pirates were the No. 4 seed, when they concluded their season. This year, the team hopes to rebound from the disap-

pointing performance.

"I think we're just really excited to prove a lot of people wrong and just show how hard we've worked and show how it will pay off," senior third baseman Kelsi Briggs said.

ECU returned 15 players from last season's squad. First-Team All-AAC shortstop Casey Alcorn is back to finish her collegiate career for the Pirates. As a junior, Alcorn paced ECU in batting average, runs scored, hits, doubles, RBI and slugging percentage.

Also returning

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.



Senior ECU women's tennis player Michelle Castro swings at the ball during a match this year.

Women's tennis set for UNCG

Corey Jones
TEC STAFF

East Carolina's women's tennis team will try to push its win streak to three when it travels to UNC Greensboro this afternoon, and advance their overall record to 3-2 with a victory.

"UNC Greensboro is a good team. They are pretty deep and will be tough in doubles," senior Nicole LaDuca said. "When we played them in the fall, we lost singles four of six matches, so we will prepare this week knowing we will have a battle ahead of us."

In the team's matchup last season, ECU downed the Spartans, 4-3. Michelle Castro and LaDuca beat Corinne Blythe and Kayla Gammie, 6-3, in doubles. In singles play, the Pirates quickly made it 3-0 after LaDuca defeated Soumeiya Anane in two sets, and Sarah Sarjoo rolled past Blythe as well in two sets. Maria Gomez followed by clinching the team victory with ECU's last straight-set win of the match.

ECU has momentum as it is coming off a sweep of Norfolk State, 7-0. The Pirates won two of the three doubles matches, earning them an early advantage point. Following the doubles win, the Pirates kept pushing as each player in the lineup secured a win in their singles competition.

"It is a great feeling bouncing back after two tough road losses. We played well this past weekend and gained a lot of confidence heading into this week," junior Michelle Castro said.

"Hopefully we can keep the momentum going."

The only standout player for the Spartans thus far is freshman Sarah Swiderski, as she has recorded UNCG's only win of the season. Everyone else on the team has struggled stat wise, all registering losses in both singles and doubles.

"There are really no key players in my eyes, just recently had some tough matches against Macy DeMoss and Jamie Grinberg," assistant coach Kirstin Burgess said.

A player that is going to give UNCG a run for their money is ECU freshman Celia Ruiz. She is 4-0 in singles matches and 3-0 in doubles.

"We are focusing on our doubles play right now because it is so important in each dual match," LaDuca said. "We will have a couple tough, hard practices before Thursday and will continue to work hard and stay focused."

Today's match against UNCG will be ECU's last away match to start the season. The Pirates return home on Saturday as they are set to face North Carolina Central in their first home advantage match.

"UNCG is always a tough opponent for us but I am excited to think we are playing really well. It should be a good match," Castro said. "I think that we are going to need everyone to come together and play well for us to win."

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HOOPS continued from A1

field goals.

The Pirates balanced scoring performance in the first half helped them take a 34-28 lead into halftime. The Pirates received scoring contributions from six different players, the Green Wave only had four players score in the first half.

Tulane was led by Dylan Osetkowski, who finished the first half with 11 points on 5-of-6 from the field and Malik Morgan, who finished with eight points.

B.J. Tyson notched eight points on 3-of-6 shooting and was supported by Michel Nzege, who finished the first half with seven points on 3-of-3 shooting. Williams and Caleb White added six points apiece for the Pirates and Barkley had five.

Louis Dabney led Tulane with 32 points on 11-of-20 shooting, including 3-of-6 from behind the arc and also shot 7-of-11 from the free throw line.

Lebo credited Dabney's strong performance and said he was the reason the team stuck to zone defense because any one player cannot match him defensively.

"He's hard to defend, he's strong, he can drive it in there, he can pivot, he can turn into a post guy when he gets in there," Lebo said.

Williams finished the game with 25 points and nine assists while Tyson also finished the game with 25 points. Barkley added a double-double for the Pirates with 20 points and 14 rebounds.

Malik Morgan added 26 points for the Green Wave on 9-of-19 shooting including 5-of-12 from behind the arc.

After three tough losses in a row, Williams' exemplified his senior leadership after the game, saying the team just needs to move forward and continue to improve.

"It's tough man, we just gotta bounce back and we just gotta keep getting better and get back in the gym and regroup and get ready for Cincinnati on Saturday," Williams said.

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GOLF continued from A8

"It just shows hard work pays off," she said.

On Friday, the team's first day in Florida for practice, Spang said the Eagle Creek Golf Club was one of her favorite courses to play because she had played well there in the past and she felt she could play aggressively.

"Playing the course before helped. I also had a strong game plan going in, so I was never really in trouble," she said.

ECU finished strong with sophomore Lisa Pettersson, who earned her fourth top-20 finish with 223 (7-over). The sophomore recorded three birdies, two bogeys and

13 pars. Freshman Kate Law tied for 44th with 229 (13-over). Catherine Ashworth tied for 53rd with 231 (15-over), and Nicole Engstroem Skaug finished with a share of 61st (232, 16-over).

"The team is extremely focused and ready for the season," said head coach Kevin Williams. "I feel we have a strong team overall and I expect all of the girls to stand out in the spring."

The Pirates' next tournament will be the Hurricane Invitational at the Biltmore Golf Club in Coral Gables, Florida on Feb. 29.

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BASEBALL continued from A8

two errors for a .964 fielding percent. One of the other three team captains Lamm will likely start in left field.

Nelson didn't see as much time as the other two seniors, but he will be starting in right field this year. A community college transfer, Nelson made 27 appearances with 12 starts, batting .234 with four RBI.

"A lot more stolen bases, a lot more running in people's faces in the outfield, as far as base hits, first to third, second to home scoring, so in the end we'll produce a lot

more runs," said Nelson.

The speed on the base paths will add a dimension to the Pirates' offense that they did not have last year. Godwin, who was aggressive on the base paths last season, now has speed that better fits his philosophy.

"[We have] a lot of team speed, so we're going to put more pressure on teams this year," said Godwin about the running game. "One of our goals is to steal 80 bases at a 80 percent success rate. Last year, I don't know if we could have done that, even if it was one of our goals."

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Seniors reflect on time in pool

Kayla Morton
TEC STAFF

If a senior swimmer on East Carolina's men's swim team says his favorite memory from the past four years is something other than bringing home the Pirates' first championship title, he better have a good reason.

ECU will graduate sixteen swimmers and divers from their program this year, and by their performances and work ethic alone, their various comradery, wins and records will not be forgotten.

Since moving to the American Athletic Conference in 2014, most people assumed the football program, under former coach Ruffin McNeill, would be the first to bring home a title. If asked around, not many people would say the swim and dive teams would be hanging up the first banner.

Nikola Simic, Shawn Hunter, Fran Krznaric and Trevor Irish's relay team had other plans. During the last event of the meet Irish out-touched the second-place overall finisher, Southern Methodist University, by one one-hundredth of a second.

"[We] hadn't won in over 20 years so it was unexpected," Irish said. "[We] came back, and came out, and did our thing."

It makes sense that Irish's favorite event to swim is a 50-yard freestyle sprint. After all, his knack for doing well in that event gifted his team with a championship title.

Along with Irish, Anastasia Amoiroglou, a Greek native, specializes in freestyle sprints. Her favorite memory came from her sophomore year, when it again came down to the last relay, and the team beat South Carolina out of nowhere in the event.

"They were way faster than us but we won against them," Amoiroglou said. "It was one of the most exciting things to ever happen here."

Julien Dodu never got the opportunity to show off his sprints,



A member of ECU's swim and dive team comes up for air during an event. The Pirates will graduate 16 seniors.

but agrees with Amoiroglou that swimming freestyle is the best event to swim. All the way from Canada, his favorite event to swim is the 500-yard freestyle because it is a strategic race. According to him, people in the past asked if it was hard for him to adjust to America and the way people speak because of how it varied from French. He would tell them that it wasn't as hard as adjusting from Romanian to English, since both his parents immigrated to Canada from Romania and taught him to speak it.

The only graduating diver, Alex Clark, might surprise people about something that he does as well.

When he isn't diving, he loves crafting and painting canvases and furniture, and most of the furniture in his home he has crafted himself. He took his crafty techniques to the 3-meter springboard for the first time in college, and is known for that event at ECU.

Three female swimmers for the women's team specialize in the art of the butterfly stroke. Lauren Baker, Bailie Monahan and Caitlin Mehaffey's favorite event is the 200-yard butterfly.

"The training for it is endless but the feeling you have after doing well in it is priceless," Baker said. "Although, when I first started

training, after the first few months, I wanted to quit because of the cold water."

Monahan looks to keep her swimming legacy alive after she graduates and wants to become a middle school math teacher, while coaching swimming on the side.

Mehaffey might have the most experience with ECU's campus and town because her older siblings attended this school as well.

"It seems to be a family tradition for us," Mehaffey said.

However, she got to experience an undefeated season in one of her first seasons here, and that broke a line of traditions for her family.

Shawn Hunter began swimming before any of his teammates at the age of two. Even though he arguably has the most swimming experience, he too loves the 50-yard freestyle sprint because it's the shortest event.

The most energized swimmer has to be AJ Jones. She trains for the 500 and 1000 freestyle events, as well as the mile. When she began swimming she joined her neighborhood summer league at age five, but liked it so much she started swimming competitively year-round at age eight.

"My mom just wanted me to get my energy out," Jones said. "But I stuck with swimming because I actually liked it"

Rounding out the women's team is Greenville native, Sara-Morgan Pou, who grew up five minutes from ECU. The Pirates were also the top program recruiting her for swimming, so she stuck to the area that she knew and loved. Next year she will stay for grad school, and although unable to compete on the swim team, she'll use all her breathing techniques to join the Acapella group on campus.

Last but not least, Austin Taylor helps out the team by swimming an event that many of his teammates do not, the 100-yard breaststroke. He supports his teammates that rely on him in order to bring in points and block other teams from scoring in that event. But outside of the pool, freshman rely on Taylor as well. He's a mentor here on campus and helps move handfuls of students through the program each year. He doesn't have to be in the pool to have people relying on him.

These seniors have one more chance to show ECU and the AAC just why they were recruited four years ago when they travel to Houston for the conference championship next weekend.

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