



POSITION BATTLE RAGES FOR ECU QUARTERBACKS

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The East Carolinian

"GIVE ME A CHANCE"

Margaret Spellings

Spellings gets ECU in context

Javaria Salman
TEC STAFF

Despite previous criticisms, the new University of North Carolina system President Margaret Spellings was open-minded and generally well-received by East Carolina University administration yesterday when she visited campus for the first time.

"President Spellings is really engaged and she pays attention, she learned a lot of our university in a quick time," said Chancellor Steve Ballard. "I just like seeing the interaction between she and our students, our faculty."

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy added, "We've had a great opportunity to fully engage with President Spellings and tell our story at this point in the game. She's been very attentive. She's asked some wonderful questions along the way, which shows that she's listening and that she's very interested in what we're doing at East Carolina."

Spellings said this tour was fun for her and allowed her to gain a better understanding of life at ECU.

"Everybody is so enthusiastic and proud of this institution," said Spellings. "The testimonials and personal stories are really inspiring and compelling."

Spellings first stop was at the East Carolina Heart Institute where she received a tour of East Carolina Diabetes & Obesity Institute and Surgical Innovation Center and Robotics lab.

During her tour, Spellings have the chance to speak with Dr. Elizabeth Baxley, senior associate dean at the Brody School of Medicine; Sylvia Brown, dean of the College of Nursing; Provost Ron Mitchelson, Doctors Carlos Ancianco and Mark Bowling; lung specialists at Brody School of Medicine, as well as scientists and

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MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ABOVE: UNC System President Margaret Spellings (right) speaks to ECU Vice Chancellor Virginia Hardy (left) while ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard (center) looks on. BELOW: Two students walk in protest of Spellings.



Protesters target new president

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

A group of students gathered at the steps of Flanagan Building beginning a protest against Margaret Spellings, new president of the UNC System, Wednesday morning during her inaugural visit to campus.

As part of Spelling's tour of East Carolina University, she was scheduled to be at the Student Memorial Garden at 11:45 a.m., where she would be planting a tree as a sign of her support towards ECU.

Student protesters met at Flanagan at 11 a.m. and then marched to the grassy area near the garden, where they waited for Spellings's arrival.

The protest was led with the help of Amy Bright, the president of ECU's GLBT Student Union. However, the event was not strictly for the GLBTSU and served as an outlook for any student that wanted to have his or her voice heard regarding Spellings.

"Our plan is for this protest to be a silent, respectful protest, where [Spellings] can see our signs and see that we are unhappy with her appointment, and also hopefully read in our press release that we expect certain commitments from her to students of color, the LGBT community, and the NC Gap of Education," said Bright.

The students' main goal of the protest was to spread the message that Spellings is unqualified for the job. The students did this by holding signs reading statements such as "No Child

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CAMPUS PROTESTS

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Campus protest targets passing of HB2

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Last night with the sun setting behind them, students, faculty members and GLBT Student Union members gathered near the Gateway Hall on College Hill to march in protest against "HB2", officially know as the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act.

GLBT members and supporters held up signs and chanted as they walked down College Hill Drive toward East Carolina University's main campus.

Last week, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law restricting which restrooms members of the transgender community can use. This decision has drawn

criticism from many organizations and people.

Deborah Thomson, president of PFLAG Greenville, called the new law "the most anti-LGBTQ law in the nation."

Since the law was passed, members of the LGBTQ community have also protested in front of the Pitt County Courthouse.

"We are here in opposition to the bill that was passed a week ago today, HB2, which provides for allowing discrimination against our community" said Amy Bright, president of the GLBT Student Union.

Bright, a married lesbian individual, hopes the legislature hears all the opposition to the new law and repeals HB2.

Freshmen Leslie Dzorvakpor

and Katie Ringer saw the protest on social media and decided to come to the mall on ECU's campus to see what was happening. Ringer called the new law "humiliating to the state."

East Carolina University police officers were on hand to help the protesters move through the College Hill Drive and 10th St. intersection. Officers were also nearby when protestors gathered on the Mall to continue speaking out against the new law.

As protesters marched in between buildings on main campus, students passing by clapped and took pictures of the protest. Some students could be overheard talking about the issue and what the protest was about.

"I think ECU as a university, as an entity itself, our values alone state that we oppose this bill because this bill strip us of dignity, strips us of equality, and that is absolutely antithesis to the values of ECU," said Bright.

Along with Bright, Dzorvakpor and Ringer agreed that ECU should take a stand on the issue. To many students' displacement, ECU has not released any statement taking a stand on the issue.

The Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act is meant to protect individuals from potential harassment in restrooms, but according to Bright, it has created a new problem.

"Trans individuals already have a super high suicide rate and now we are trying to take their dignity

away from them by forcing them to use a restroom that does not align with who they are as a person" said Bright.

Dzorvakpor and Ringer said when election time rolls around later this year, this topic will weigh in when they decide who to vote for.

Bright said that is the goal of the protest to educate the public and vote people into the legislature that will repeal the law.

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news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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A3 HB2 protest photo story

ONLINE

>> Greenville Police investigate connection between overdoses

>> GPD arrest two men in connection to recent string of robberies

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

New Bern airport to show ECU sculptures

The School of Art and Design will install sculptures at New Bern airport tomorrow. The removal of previous pieces and installation of new work is expected to begin by 10 a.m. and a ceremony will follow at 1 p.m. This is the eighth year that Art Professor Hanna Jubran's students will create, build and install sculptures for the airport's yearlong "Art at the Airport" public art exhibit. Airport Director Tom Braaten will introduce the students featured in the exhibit. During the ceremony, the students will discuss their sculpture with the public. The Coastal Carolina Regional Airport is located at 200 Terminal Drive in New Bern.

Uptown to host parking discussion

Faculty and students at Brody School of Medicine plan to offer free health screenings at two locations in Edgecombe County. Patients will be assessed for health risk factors related to blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes. The health screenings will also provide information on stroke risks, healthy eating and dental health. Edgecombe County has the highest incidence of stroke in the state and the mortality rate due to stroke is double the statewide average. The screenings are open to the public tomorrow as well as April 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling Cheryl Fisher at 252-641-7588.

ECU to host admitted students Saturday

Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m., ECU will host its annual Admitted Students Day. The purpose of this event is to bring students that have been accepted to the university onto campus and engaged in the atmosphere. Students will have the opportunity to mingle with future classmates and will also spend time learning about different clubs and organizations on campus. Perspective students will also have session meetings ranging from meeting with advisors and faculty from intended majors to meetings regarding housing, dining and financial aid. There will be special sessions for admitted transfer students.

ECU set Research & Creative Achievement Week

ECU will honor the creativity and hard work of its students next week with the Research & Creative Achievement Week on campus. Students with accomplishments in research, scholarship, artistry and other areas will be honored and promoted by the university. Students' work will be put on display. Some students will have the opportunity to present their works as well. According to ECU News Services, another advantage for these students lays in the chance to meet students with common interests, drive and creativity.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

NCDOT cracks down

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

State and local law enforcement have begun this year's "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" initiative with the intent to slow down North Carolina drivers.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is using the "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" initiative to educate drivers on the dangers of speeding. According to NCDOT, speed is a major factor of injuries and fatalities on North Carolina roadways and officers will begin to issue more tickets to drivers who are driving over the posted speed limit. NCDOT and law enforcement hope to educate the public that even if drivers are traveling in the "buffer zone," they are still driving over the posted speed limit.

"This high visibility enforcement campaign hopefully deters people from driving over the speed limits and therefore reducing speed related traffic fatalities and crashes," according to Jonathan Bandy, public information officer with the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Bandy said last year approximately 400 police departments, 60 sheriff's offices and the State Highway Patrol all participated in the campaign. With the participation, law enforcement officials wrote more than 13,000 speeding tickets during last year's "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" campaign from March 30 to April 3, 2015.

Statistics published by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety show that more than 370,000 North Carolina drivers were caught speeding in 2015. "That's probably one of the most common reasonable suspicion stops that we do is speeding," said First Sergeant M.A. Williams, district commander of the State Highway Patrol for Pitt and Martin counties.

According to First Sergeant Williams, speeding is one of the most common violations troopers see on a daily basis. Williams said while the state troopers do not use quotas or



A police officer hands a ticket to a driver. NCDOT launched its "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" campaign this past week.

associate a certain number of tickets with a goal, the "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" campaign is intended to slow people down through education, not fines.

"The number of tickets is not really the goal, it is more to educate the public," said Williams speaking about the campaign.

Justin Simmons, a second-year graduate student studying nutrition science, said he speeds because he is either in a rush to get to a place or just wants to get to the destination quicker. Simmons also said he normally drives within the "buffer

zone" because his friends who are cops have told him that is acceptable.

"What I impress upon my troopers is we write citations for clear cut substantial violations," said Williams.

According to First Sergeant Williams, when drivers are moving faster than the posted speed limit it becomes a "clear cut violation" and an officer can write a citation. Though, Williams said an officer makes the decision whether or not the driver deserves a ticket.

"The substantial part comes in as well. Is that speed at the particular time on that particular road a sub-

stantial violation and that is officer discretion?" said Williams.

Multiple ECU students were polled and asked if they speed when driving. Of the students polled, all admitted to speeding to some degree when driving.

The "Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine" campaign is set to continue until April 3. Officials are hoping to slow drivers down and educate drivers through the initiative on how dangerous speeding can be.

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

SPELLINGS continued from A1

doctoral students about their time and experiences at ECU.

Before heading to the main campus, Spellings also visited the School of Dental Medicine.

Ballard said, "[Spellings] asked a hundred questions about some of the programs, the dental school. She's absorbing a tremendous amount and we wanted to show her who we really were."

Spellings' tour of main campus started with a tree planting ceremony in the Student Memorial Garden, where she presented ECU with a dogwood tree.

Spellings was greeted by members of ECU's senior administration, representatives from the ECU Board of Trustees, and Student Government Association leadership, as well as protestors.

"Students should look forward to the start of a new a positive working relationship with the new president of the UNC system so that we can go forward as a system," said SGA president-elect Ryan Beeson. "Particularly for our institution it's so important that we have this close ties with the individuals with the power to make the changes."

Following the symbolic ceremony, Spellings headed to Mendenhall Student Center for a luncheon with

student leaders, Ballard, Hardy and other ECU administrators.

The luncheon was a chance for Spellings to interact with students on a personal level.

"I've made it my mission to spend the first days on the job getting to know you and your fellow students around the state asking questions about what people are proud of, what drew them to these institutions and also what are some of the challenges you want me to get to work on," Spellings said during the panel.

During the lunch panel, the students were also given an opportunity to ask any questions they had for Spellings such as what drew her to the UNC system, what are some of her goals, the UNC General Assembly's position on the new the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, commonly referred to as HB2, how can the UNC system universities more diverse, how to address some of the issues protestors have brought up, transparency and other questions.

Spellings answered the student concerns by talking briefly about a few of her top priorities for the UNC system and said by meeting students across the system, she's seeing some themes start to develop. Spellings noted students are concerned about diversity, access and affordability and how to make the UNC Board of Governors more accessible to the public.

"We've got to listen. We can't be

afraid to talk about this stuff," said Spellings to students.

Senior Meghan Pergola said, "One thing I really touched on was the passion everyone has for ECU and that home environment and I think that's something that can be implemented on other campuses, but I think the thing she should take the most from today was kind of those problem areas that were hit on."

Pergola added she hopes Spellings realizes that there are "pressing issues" that need to be addressed and she should reach out to other students and faculty to help improve those issues. Spellings also asked the student leaders why they chose ECU and why they were at this institution and what are some of the challenges that fellow students at ECU face.

She told the student panel, "You are all so impressive; you communicate so clearly from the heart. You're a great representation of this university."

Rick Niswander, vice chancellor for administration and finance, said this panel gave Spellings a chance to see all that ECU has to offer for its students.

"This gathering with students showed some real passion for this university," said Niswander. "She's getting to see what we really do here and the difference we make to our students, to our community."

Students present at the panel said this was a great experience to talk to

the system president.

"It felt really good to talk to somebody that's as high up as she is on higher education," said Cory Albaugh, senior majoring in criminal justice. "It was pretty interesting to watch and observe all the interactions between her and students. She seems like a very nice woman and I think she's going to do a really well job."

Jordan Lee, a sophomore majoring in risk management and insurance said, "This is a place where you can come in as an average student but you can do as much or as little as and really the sky's the limit. So really getting to show her that was one of the biggest and most important things for me."

Following the panel, Spellings ended her tour by visiting ECU's Pirate Academic Success Center, ECU's Innovation Design Lab, and the MakerBot 3D printer. She had a chance to see how ECU helps military veterans.

Spellings said she plans to work on affordability and access as part of her goals for the system going forward.

"I know [these institutions] provide high quality experience for students, but we need to make sure that people really feel like they can afford it, that they can do college-level work when they come here straight from high school," said Spellings.

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College of Nursing to host Pirate 5K

Anna Parrish
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University College of Nursing will hold its third annual Pirate Nurse 5k Saturday on the Health Sciences Campus.

The 5k run began as a way to raise money towards nursing scholarships. Faculty and students of the College of Nursing have been preparing for the race all year, which takes about 40 to 50 volunteers and sponsors to put on this race. The senior class comes together and assists to help make this race a success.

Runners and walkers are from all over Greenville including community members, students and faculty members. This year's race will have more than 200 participants. The course starts and ends on the campus and winds through

the campus near the lake and the various roads surrounding Vidant hospital.

"5k's are a great way to promote healthy living," said Elizabeth Willy, director of Development and Communications for the College of Nursing.

For the first time, the Student Government association has made a small donation for the race.

A nursing student, Camila Mazareigos, who is also the senator for the College of Nursing in the SGA, had an idea to help raise more money for the 5k race.

"Knowing my resources as part of SGA, I immediately tied the two together," said Mazareigos.

SGA has a certain budget and can contribute to organizations by request to help fund activities.

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



Students and Greenville community members run during last year's Pirate 5K, hosted by the ECU College of Nursing.

PROTESTS

Above: ECU students walk on campus near the Mall before Margaret Spellings's tree planting ceremony in front of Mendenhall Student Center. Below: Students and community members protest the passing of HB2 on the ECU Mall.

MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

PROTEST continued from A1

Left Behind, Left Us Behind," "Don't Privatize My Education," "College Does Not Equal Corporation," among others.

Among the protesters was sophomore information and computer science major Shanne Mcpherson.

"The reason I'm here is because I don't believe that Spellings is qualified for the position she has taken and that she is here to just do what she is told instead of actually helping the UNC systems," Mcpherson said.

Junior anthropology and classics major Mia Willis was one of the protesters present and was there representing the LGBT community.

"She refuses to discuss our quote, unquote lifestyle which leads me to believe that she would not treat LGBT students with the same equity that she would treat straight students," said Willis.

Demonte Alford wanted the students to know Spellings's background, in order to see why he thinks she is unqualified.

Spellings was the Secretary of Education in the Bush Administration. Under Spellings, the No Child Left Behind movement was enforced. She sat on the board that oversaw the University of Phoenix and was also the head of a student debt collection agency.

Alford is an ECU alumnus and works with Black Lives Matter and Ignite NC in Greensboro, North Carolina.

"The SGA at ECU does not represent the students of ECU. Never have, never will," said Alford. "The SGA is meeting with Spellings while we are talking right now, codifying and allowing her disastrous beliefs to be hosted on this campus and university."

"I've been on the job a little less than a month. Give me a chance," said Spellings in response to the protests. "I want to hear from all the people with every kind of view. I'm listening and I hope they will too."

SGA President-elect Ryan Beeson added, "I think they are a little pre-mature. I don't think they've given her a chance. We should really work with her and let's try to do things together rather than being divisive."

One student saw the protest as proof of ECU's diverse atmosphere.

"I think it shows that ECU is a place where your voice can be heard in whatever way you want," said Daniel Kohn, sophomore mechanical engineering major.

However, others thought that the protesters were too hasty in their judgements towards Spelling, and that they should give her a chance before protesting.

"I believe we have to see what President Spellings is going to do here," said political science major Alex Prunka. "She's not even through a whole month of being president of the UNC system, and she has a five-year contract so why burn a bridge before you can build one?"

Chancellor Steve Ballard said students should remain open-minded about Spellings.

"She wants to listen. She wants to understand," said Ballard. "She's on the students' side on most of these issues, so I think she'll be great for the system."

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

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PIRATE RANTS

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

Gotta love that online poll.... “do you read trash?” NO. TMZ, Gawker, and Deadspin are all dying. Publishers and businesses finally figured out that SJWs and radical feminists are only good at complaining and being victims, not paying the bills. SJWs and Radical Feminists don't have to be your audience!

Women, if you want your men to treat you like a princess, you should treat them as kings. A relationship is give-and-take... the more you take now, the less you'll have later.

Why does it take a professor four days to post grades for a test if you used a bubble sheet? #Annoyed

I remember when pirate rants were good...now it just looks like a politics journal

Newsflash Kai. Choosing which bathroom you want to go into isn't a right.

Tesla as we know it may be a thing of the past. With the pending Mogul's divorce, he might just lose his balance and all the other car manufacturers might eat the company alive. Why do people get married again? It makes zero sense.

Did you see the black girl who assaulted the white dude because he had dreadlocks, then called it “cultural appropriation”? These silly liberals are fighting among each other.

TFW you check on Pirate Rants as an alum and they make Batman vs. Superman look like a fluffy rom-com

What's a pirate's favorite movie? Booty and the Beast #punster

Why can't pirates learn the alphabet? Because they insist there are 7 C's! #punster

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

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Our view

Local businesses set good example for state

Last week, North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed a bill to prevent transgender individuals from using the public bathroom of the sex they identify with. Protests against the bill have taken place across the state, with ECU students voicing their concerns both on campus and online via #ECUisnotthis.

Local Greenville restaurants have taken a different approach, however, by taping signs on their bathroom doors. Sup Dogs, for example, posted a note reading, “We value and love all our customers. Please use whichever bathroom fits your personal needs. We love everyone the same.”

We, the editorial staff at the East Carolinian, com-

mend Sup Dogs, Crave Restaurant, Happy Girls Bras & Breastfeeding and Unitarian Universalist Congregation for supporting gender neutral bathrooms. It is refreshing to see that local Greenville businesses are taking matters in their own hands to promote what is right, while also supporting the wishes of the community they serve.

It is important for businesses to continue to send a message to the North Carolina government that customer's comfort, safety and personal preferences should be put first. These small acts of protest restore faith and pride in what it means to be a citizen of North Carolina after such a disappointing decision from Governor McCrory and the state legislature.

Race not always the bottom line



Tyler Kelbaugh
TEC COLUMNIST

FROM THE OPINION DESK

The profound racial tension that has gripped the United States has reared its ugly head in Greenville. On St. Patrick's Day, a story broke that Patrick Myrick, an African American man, was allegedly brutally assaulted by at least three white students on West End. The alleged assault was quickly made into a race issue by both students and citizens of Greenville. Even ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard fed fuel to the fire by saying that there was a chance race was involved.

Once the facts were settled, however, both the Greenville police and Ballard issued statements clarifying that race was not, in fact, a motivating factor in the assault. Instead, the crime occurred because the victim had moments earlier punched a girl outside of Club 519. The East Carolinian reported that the students who attacked Myrick were actually friends of the female victim.

Defending the people who attacked Myrick is not my intention; they broke the law and deserve to be punished accordingly. Still, the fact that this crime was so quickly turned into

a race issue caused misinformation to spread about the people involved and unnecessarily heightened racial tensions in our area. It also took necessary attention away from a legitimate issue that this situation exposed, that Greenville residents, natives and students alike, were not given proper information on the crime when it happened.

Rushing to judgement occurs naturally when people try to make sense of a developing situation, although it rarely results in a positive outcome. In this case, given the basic fact that a black man was beaten up by four white people, connecting the dots would reasonably lead one to believe that race was a motivating factor. That assumption was false, however, and it unfairly hurt the reputation of those involved in the incident, only serving to discredit actual racism that occurs daily.

This case received so much attention, in fact, that two community forums were called to discuss the facts of the case and to attempt to discuss solutions to problems voiced by minority citizens. The second, occurring on Tuesday night, ended abruptly when Ballard was repeatedly interrupted attempting to address a question regarding race's role in the events. While some felt his early exit was disrespectful, it's hard to fault him considering audience members refused to let him express his ideas. By letting misplaced anger dictate

the tone of the conversation, Greenville residents missed out on a chance to make serious headway towards finding solutions to their problems.

By falsely implying racism, the community has taken the focus off of the serious problem that is ECU Alerts. The system has been criticized by everyone affected by it, yet it remains a total mess. On the night of the assault, which occurred on West End, no ECU Alert was sent out to students. If one of the people assaulting Myrick, or Myrick himself, was armed, the assault could have presented an even more dangerous threat to campus. The system once again failed to protect ECU students, a fact overshadowed by false cries of racism.

Given the country's current climate, it's hard to fault anyone for believing that a crime where four white people beat up a black man was racially charged. Still, this case highlights just how important reserving judgement before all the facts are presented is. In order to combat racism, both in Greenville and across the country, letting go of those angry and negative dispositions is necessary.

Tyler Kelbaugh is a senior majoring in communication and is the opinion editor. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Students undereducated about sex



Annah Parrish
TEC COLUMNIST

The rise of reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis has made it clear that college students don't take STDs as seriously as they should. The nonchalant attitudes college students have towards STDs are as deeply rooted as they are dangerous. It seems that most students either aren't concerned or are just too scared to get answers to important questions they have about their body.

Students aren't scared to partake in sexual intercourse with a stranger, but when it comes to talking to a recurring partner about a possibility of having an STD or getting tested, they suddenly hesitate. Having the talk with a potential partner or current partner is equally important as getting yourself tested for STDs. It is your body and you should take responsibility for it, and that involves simply going to the doctor or sitting down with your partner to talk about concerns. It may not be ideal in certain situations, but it is so crucial when it comes to contracting an STD. Students should be tested every time they have a new partner, even if the partner claimed they were clean.

One big reason students don't get tested is because they have an irrational fear that

family members will be notified. Doctors have a confidentiality agreement that forces them to only disclose information with individuals you allow. ECU even has policies in place requiring you to fill out forms for family to even have access to personal and academic information. This is not communicated enough or advertised substantially between ECU, health clinics and students that even being tested can be kept private.

Although ECU offers some forms of sex education, it is not enough to motivate students to live a healthier sex life. ECU offers free information sessions and events if students want to seek help, but too many students are unsure or don't feel comfortable to even take that step. Everyone is required to take Health 1000 which covers the basics regarding STDs, but health professors should take this time to make a large emphasis on how important self care and taking care of your body.

This is crucial to succeeding in a new environment. Sex education needs to be more realistic and applied directly to a college environment, keeping in mind that alcohol and drugs are often factors in situations where sexual activity happens. Adequate information is not just telling students to not participate in these activities, but how to deal with the aftermath of a situation that they were not prepared for. Condoms can prevent

STDs, but most sexually active students have reported they didn't have condoms or they choose to opt out. Condoms can prevent STDs, but certain STDs can simply be transferred via skin-to-skin if an infected person has an outbreak.

Education should also improve for students when they are diagnosed with an STD. Knowing how to handle an STD with proper medication and when to avoid sexual activity can greatly decrease the amount of transfers from person to person. Support can go a long way.

STDs are an infection within your body, similar to a bacterial infection in your chest. Visiting a doctor for an STD shouldn't really be considered anything different than getting a checkup for any other sickness. The repercussions of waiting to be tested, or not being tested at all, can have major long-term effects including infertility. This is something that can have an impact on a person's future and should be addressed properly.

Unfortunately, the people who need this information may never receive it. Sex education needs greater emphasis in order to help resolve this serious crisis.

Annah Parrish is a junior majoring in communication and is a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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72 hours
MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

TODAY

Smoke Out Arthritis
Bar-B-Q
Alpha Omicron Pi
5 p.m.

March Exhibits at
Emerge: Downeast
Sculpture Exhibition &
On the Wall
Emerge Gallery and Art
Center
8 p.m.- 10 p.m.

FRIDAY

Emerge Gallery
5 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Pass/Fail: The Paper
Bag Test
Greenville Museum of
Art
5 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Blake Kearney Band
Tavern on 4th

The Crane Wife
ECU Messick Theatre
Art Center
12 p.m.- 11 p.m.

SATURDAY

Emerald City Improv
Fest
Crave Restaurant &
Bar
7p.m.- 11:59 p.m.

Dueling Piano Show
Tavern on 4th

ECU Youth Arts Festival
East Carolina
University Mall
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

The Getdown 8
Crossbones Tavern
10 p.m.- 2 a.m.

Great Glow Run
Union Point Park
7:30 p.m.

AGAPE



PARIS SILVER / THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Richard Cotton (pictured in the white hat) and Chandler Chase recently launched a collection of hats as a part of their new brand.

Running towards success
ECU athletes team up, create clothing brand

Victoria Schule
TEC STAFF

Richard Cotton and Chandler Chase traded in their proverbial athletic hats for their own creations: a collection of hats which is the first step of expanding into a clothing brand.

“Two years ago, I was in my apartment trying to figure what [it] was that I actually wanted to do,” said Cotton, a senior universities studies major.

“I like fashion and I like helping people so I figured, why not just put the two together.”

At the time, Cotton was training for track and told Chase, senior finance major and track captain, about his dream of pursuing entrepreneurial adventures, one of them being a clothing brand.

From there, they teamed up and created their new clothing brand; Agape.

“The name comes from the word, agape, which means unconditional love,” said Cotton. “It is the deepest love one can express; a sacrificial love.”

Cotton and Chase created the brand name not because it sounded different, but because of the meaning behind the name.

“It is much more than just a brand name,” said Chase.

Cotton said in today’s society, people express love differently in which agape serves as umbrella term for all the ways to express love.

“That is what we want to do essentially,” said Cotton. “We take 10 percent from every product that we sold and give it to a charity of a different cause.”

The three at the end of Agape, which is actually represented as an epsilon symbol on the official logos, also means something just as important as the word itself.

“We decided to spell it a little differently,” said Cotton. “We decided to flip the three at the end of the name to represent the third-world countries we aim to help.”

One of the first charities Chase and Cotton plan to donate their proceeds to is the Akon Lighting Africa, where every \$75 dollars raised, a village is provided with lights.

The duo, who is currently in the process of creating more clothing for the brand, is selling hats for now as a start.

“One particular hat will be for that cause and we plan to have more for other causes,” said Cotton.

Creating the brand was a difficult task for the two, who are both involved with track and other extra-curriculares while being full-time college students.

“We had to talk to investors, connect with manufacturers and on top of that, try to market our first product off the ground,” said Chase. “There were times where we had back out from certain events or hanging out with friends during the weekend because we were trying to bring this together.”

Cotton, who used to be on the track team as volunteer assistant coach, left the track team to bring Agape to life.

“I decided not to take on track or sports anymore because I needed to take on a bigger workload at the time,” said Cotton. “If I didn’t do that, Agape would’ve only stayed as an idea.”

Chase and Cotton mentioned that going through trial and error to put everything together, has been nothing but a learning experience.

“When doing something like this, it may not work the first time or the second time, or even the third time, but what you have to do is just believe, conceive and pray,” said Cotton.

Chase and Cotton, who struggled to find investors, decided that Agape was something they need to take on for themselves and use whatever resources they could find.

From reaching from their own pocket, to talking to people on campus about their brand, and working with graphic designers on campus, they were able to help bring some of their ideas to life.

“This past spring break we were able to go to Los Angeles Fashion Week,” said Chase. “From there, we were able to gain some experience and inspiration to build our clothing line.”

The brand aims towards trendy and edgy styles, but fit individual styles at the same time.

“We want to be a movement that about loving others, but we want our customers to know that it is important to feel comfortable with what they wear and love themselves,” said Cotton.

One of the hats Chase and Cotton created is a light-denim baseball cap with a red rose symbol in the front.

“We felt the rose was something that was simple and can transcend into other cultures,” said Cotton.

> AGAPE page A6

Messick to host 'random' dance performance

PLAN TO GO



WHAT: Random Acts

WHEN: Saturday at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1 p.m.

WHERE: Messick

Jennifer Hines
TEC STAFF

Students of East Carolina University’s School of Theater and Dance will put on nights of “Random Acts” Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

Tommi Galaska, the dance instructor who helped put together this weekend’s performances, loves putting on “Random Acts” every spring.

“It’s one of my favorite things to do every year,” said Galaska. “It’s just nice to work with the students on something like that.”

“Random Acts” is a melting pot of performances put on by students. The hour long collection of acts features more than just different styles of dance.

“[There are] musical theater numbers, music, poetry readings, things like that,” said Galaska.

“Random things that lay within theater and dance... It’s really a big old pot of soup. It’s a little bit of everything.”

Students chose any material they wanted to perform while still working as a group to set a cohesive tone for the entire performance.

“We kind of get together as a group and form the emotional path of the show,” said Galaska.

She believes that mixing such a variety of artistic interpretations is a good learning experience for her students.

“I am a firm believer that dance and theater is a great marriage,” said Galaska. “I think one needs the other.”

She also believes being able to throw a performance together in little to no time will teach them valuable lessons on production.

The students working on “Random Acts” only began rehearsals this week and are expected to have their performances ready for this weekend. Among the theater and dance students performing in “Random Acts” are several students who are not majoring in either field.

“They’re usually involved because they truly want to be involved,” said Galaska of non-theater or dance majors. “My experience [with non-majors] has been a positive one always because they are very dedicated or they wouldn’t seek it out.”

Galaska loves sharing the experience of “Random Acts” with all students because they might not get that experience otherwise.

“That’s another reason why we do it,” said Galaska. “It gives

opportunity for other people as well.”

Throughout the 10 years “Random Acts” has been produced, Galaska said the show has gotten much better due to the strengthening of their programs.

“The kids certainly have more opportunity to create things and to work on things on their own so they have material that we can pull from now,” she said.

Messick Theatre Arts Center will host “Random Acts” for two performances at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday and one performance at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5.

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

Fest promotes youth creativity

Rebecca Seffer
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

This Saturday, local children will gather for hands-on art adventures at ECU's 12th Annual Youth Arts Festival.

Dindy Reich, a professor in the School of Art and Design, has been involved in this event since its first year, when the idea was first brought along by former director Richard Tichich.

"It's grown every year," said Reich. "We have thousands of kids and family members that come to the festival each year."

The festival is organized by the students of Reich's Community Arts Management class, as they learn to organize events such as this one.

"They're learning how to put on a big community event," said Reich. "And how to work with artists and the community."

The festival will include many demonstrations for the children, presented by students, faculty and various outside artists and performers.

"[We have] mostly hands-on activities for the kids," said Reich. "Everything from blacksmithing to sculpture to all kinds of drawing and painting."

The various art "guilds" throughout the School of Art and Design will also be presenting their own demonstrations, such as the textile guild who will be working with their faculty to introduce silk painting to the children.

"The different student groups are going to be directing activities for the kids all day," said Reich.

The festival's biggest source of advertising is interactive for the children. An ECU student has created a poster outline encouraging children to design their own posters. Twenty thousand of these poster outlines were distributed to young students throughout the community. The top 25 posters from each age group will be given a prize, along with their poster on display the day of the event.

"It's not a coloring contest, because

they actually have to figure out what they want to put," said Reich. "It's very individual."

Performance artists will be present throughout the day on the main stage, along with Raleigh circus act, Cirque de Vol, performing at 1 p.m.

"We want the whole community to know all the resources for their kids," said Reich. "Things their kids to get involved in that are constructive, that are creative, that use their imagination."

Students outside of the School of Art and Design are also welcome and encouraged to volunteer, as there are many behind-the-scenes aspects of managing the event.

The Youth Arts Festival will be held on the mall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held inside the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

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

AGAPE continued from A5

Cotton said they have other original ideas to come, but the best symbolises all kinds of love the same way Agape does.

"As entrepreneurs we feel we gotta chase our dreams and create it, regardless of what you gotta do," said Chase.

They hope to bring Agape online within the month for customers to order their hats.

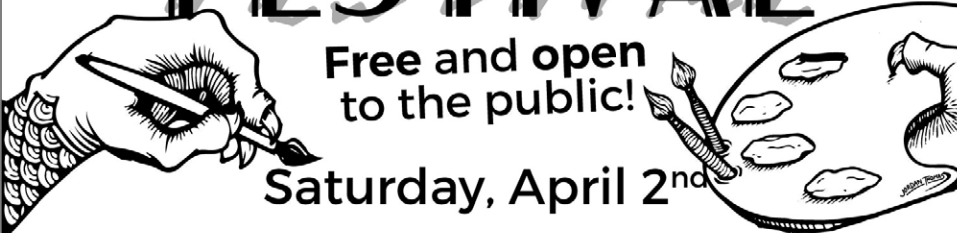
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rain site: Jenkins Fine Art Center


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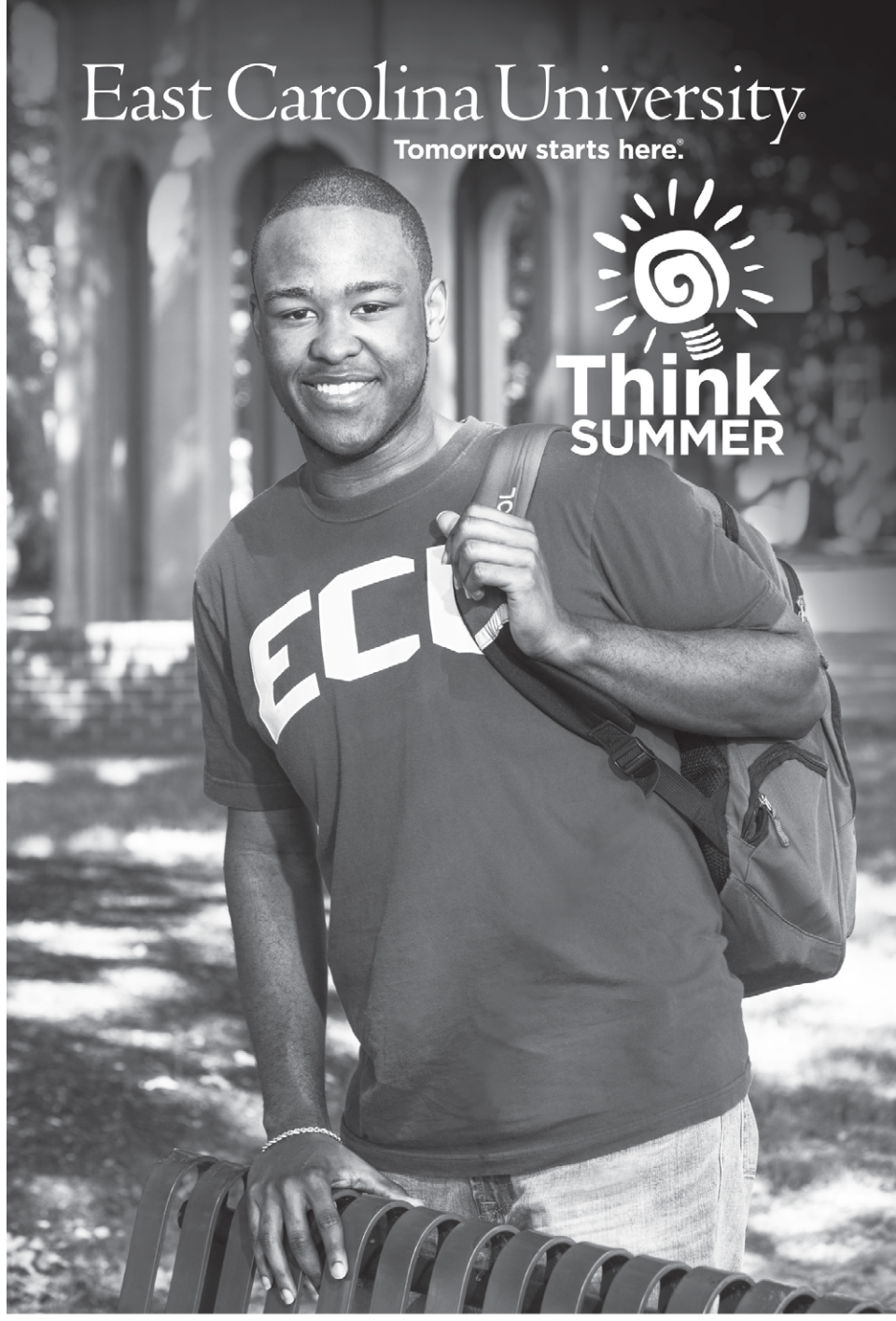
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HELP WANTED

Summer help wanted. Pm shift leader, Duck Donuts, Corolla, NC. Five nights a week from June 7 - August 16. Interested persons email letter of interest to obx@duckdonuts.com

Professor O'Cool's is now hiring wait staff must be available for days, night and weekends. Please apply in person after 2pm. 605 Greenville Blvd.

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

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SOLUTION TO TUESDAY'S PUZZLE 3/31/16

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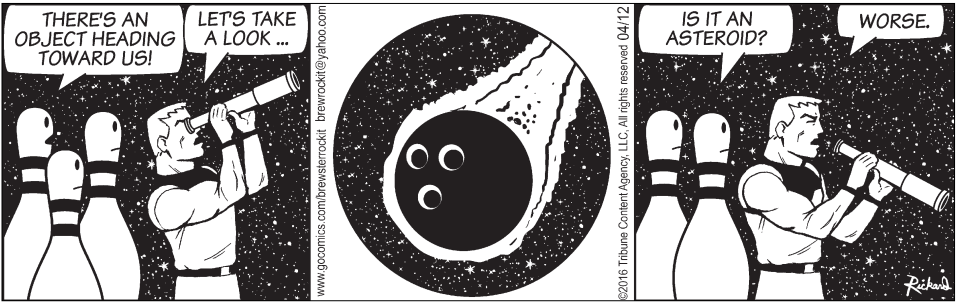
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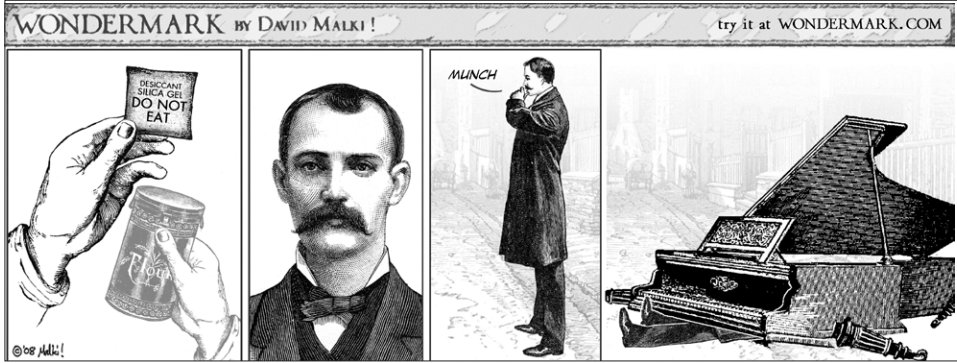
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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKET



WONDERMARK



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Career opportunities seem within reach. Stay focused. Consider what's best for family. If it goes against your grain, turn it down. You gain profound insight into a problem. Teach someone what you're learning.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Travel and academics hold your focus. A formidable barrier blocks the path, so step carefully. You can see what wasn't working. Keep practicing. Work with someone who sees your blind spot. Have a backup plan.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Manage shared finances with your partner. Difficulties become apparent. Listen

carefully, and avoid blame or argument. Focus on what can be done. Make an important call. Keep your sense of humor.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Collaborative efforts get through where a solo push fails. Keep your patience with partners and roommates. Deep breathing is good now. Negotiate to refine the plan. Let go of old baggage.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- A change of direction at work does you a lot of good, but may take you by surprise. Cut clutter to make space for what's ahead. Reconnect with your base.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Relax, and take it easier. Pay bills before spending

on treats. Simple luxuries satisfy, like open sky and hot water. You don't need gifts to express your love. Remind people what you appreciate about them.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Family matters hold your focus. You and a housemate may have differing opinions. Slow down and proceed with caution, or you'll break something. Avoid harsh words by listening more. Go for clarity. Decrease clutter.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Breaking news reveals a startling turn of events. Study background details before weighing in. Discover the undercurrents and hidden resources. Take abrupt action to grab a passing opportunity. You're gain-

ing influence in a growing conversation.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Prioritize positive cash flow. Pay bills, and send invoices. Sell or give away stuff you no longer need. Establish efficient routines to save money. Keep things frugal, even when a windfall lands in your yard.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Take charge, and motivate others to participate. An opportunity requires action, and you see something possible. Slow down to navigate sharp turns. Get out and explore what's going on. Invite someone interesting.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Peace and quiet

suit your mood. Private productivity generates satisfying results. Read instructions and histories. Plan upcoming engagements in detail. Think carefully before making an important decision. Home draws you in magnetically.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Find ways to increase shared assets. Insurance? Investments? Manage accounts, and get feedback from a partner. Set up meetings, and resist temptation to spend on non-essential frills. Get expert opinions. Share ideas for profit and savings.

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TUNE IN

EVERYDAY



East Carolina's Eric Tyler loads up for a swing against UNC-Wilmington Tuesday evening. Tyler finished 4-for-4 in Tuesday's contest.

Pirates' bats breakout

ECU notches 14 hits in victory over UNCW

Kayla Morton
TEC STAFF

East Carolina took off, scoring three runs in the top of the second inning and didn't look back, as it added a parking lot dinger by Travis Watkins, a 4-for-4 night for Eric Tyler and at least one run scored in six innings in its 9-6 win over UNC Wilmington Tuesday night.

The Pirates (17-8) scored nine runs on 14 hits with one error in a much-needed mid-week win, where they have struggled thus far this season.

Starting pitcher Jacob Wolfe got an uncharacteristic mid-week start after he only posted forty pitches against Jacksonville last Friday in arguably his worst start of the season. Wolfe bounced back, going

a strong 6 1/3 innings Tuesday, allowing six hits and two runs.

"When I met with him on Saturday morning after his outing on Friday and said 'hey you just earned Tuesday's start,'" head coach Cliff Godwin said. "That's Wolfe, what you saw on Friday was not Wolfe."

A strong pitching outing was matched by third baseman Tyler, who went 4-for-4 with a hit-by-pitch. Tyler picked up a bunt single, a two-out RBI, a base-hit single and a double. His batting average went from a .293 to a .323 in Tuesday's game. Tyler's performance proves that he is on a hot streak, as he broke the university record for most RBI in one game (8) after Saturday's series win over Jacksonville.

"In baseball, you try to ride a hot

streak while you got it," Tyler said. "I could go 0-for-my-next-30, you never know."

Watkins struggled early, posting a fly out and a groundout before picking up a base hit and slamming the only home run of the night out of the park. It helped the Pirates build an 8-1 lead and added to another impressive double-digit scoring output. Watkins and Tyler had the best game offensively for the Pirates, which seems to be a common theme throughout the season so far.

"Eric Tyler's my favorite player," Watkins said. "It's fun to watch him play."

Sneaking in to provide support on

> **UNCW** page A9

Baseball set to take on Houston

Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

It'll be a good old-fashion American Athletic Conference shootout in Clark-Leclair stadium, as the conference's top two teams from last year, East Carolina and Houston, are set to face off this weekend.

Last year, the Pirates (17-8) and the Cougars (16-8) only faced off four times. Houston won the series in Texas, but ECU won the most important game in the conference tournament championship game, 9-1, making the team's dead even last season.

This year, however, both teams have experienced ups and downs. Both are still second and third in the conference, chasing Tulane, so the weekend series has huge conference implications.

"They're one of the best teams in the conference, so we'll need to play well," ECU head coach Cliff Godwin said. "If we sweep them, we won't be the best team in the country. If we get swept, we won't be the [worst] team in the country. We're just happy they're coming to Clark-Leclair this weekend, and we're not having to go to Houston like we did last year."

Houston is an improved team by the numbers. Its pitching staff bolsters a full five-man rotation, headed by last year's AAC Freshman-of-the-Year Seth Romero, who currently has a 0.58 ERA. Romero has only allowed 10 hits all year and was named National Pitcher-of-the-Week last week. As a staff, the Cougars have a 2.25 ERA, an opponent's batting average of .210 and are on pace to allow 30 fewer runs than last year.

"We'll need to pitch well this weekend, because their pitching is one of the best pitching staffs in the country," said Godwin.

The Pirates' starting pitching has been good all season as well, with a few minor blemishes. The weekend rotation will be a bit different with the order being Evan Kruczynski, Jimmy Boyd and Jacob Wolfe. Wolfe pitched Tuesday, which pushes him back to Sunday, moving Boyd to Saturday. The three starters have a combined 2.15 ERA.

Houston's offense is no slight work though, as its offense is on pace to put up over 400 runs, an

> **HOUSTON** page A10

TAKEAWAYS

BASEBALL

No. 19 ECU (17-8) defeated UNC Wilmington 9-6, Tuesday night thanks to 14 hits.

BASKETBALL

Forward Grant Bryant and guard Charles Foster announced that they will transfer from ECU.

MEN'S TENNIS

The Pirates (8-9) will face George Washington at home on Friday.

WOMEN'S GOLF

ECU will travel to Greensboro Friday to compete in the Bryan National Collegiate.

SOFTBALL

The Pirates (20-6, 0-3 AAC) fell short in a doubleheader Tuesday evening to Longwood 8-2 and 6-2.

CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes (33-28-16) lost 2-1, in overtime to the New York Islanders Tuesday.

ONLINE



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QB battle takes shape

Adam Decker
TEC STAFF

In an offseason of change, it only makes sense that East Carolina football will also be adjusting to life with a new quarterback under center and a new offensive coordinator to oversee it all.

The hiring of Scottie Montgomery brought offensive coordinator Tony Petersen and an entirely new offensive coaching staff that will form a more traditional pro-style offense. Add the departure of last season's starting quarterback Blake Kemp and it is safe to say that the ECU offense will have a much different look this upcoming fall.

"I think everybody is adjusting well," Petersen said. "We got to get as much as we can in here in the spring so we can have film for the summer so things are going okay there. It's always a little rough when you install."

Kurt Benkert is back from injury and appears to be the early front-runner to quarterback the Pirates against Western Carolina on week one, although Rutgers transfer Phillip Nelson is closely challenging Benkert for the job.

"Very talented, the arm talent of Kurt Benkert and the retention of what we do [is great]," Montgomery said. "To be honest our quarterbacks, thank goodness are ahead of where we are offensively. They know our offense. They know what we're doing."

Benkert served as Shane Carden's backup in 2014, completing 8-of-10 passes for 58 yards and one interception. Benkert also showed that he can be mobile, rushing five times for 23 yards and two touchdowns, one of which was in the 70-41 blowout against North Carolina. He was announced the starter

last season before tearing his ACL in practice, sidelining him for the remainder of the season. The junior is known for his physical strength and throwing power, much different than Kemp's short pass reliance.

"It's a lot of just knocking the rust off," Benkert said about spring practice. "Not playing the past seven months was tough but I'm glad to be out here and competing again and being around my teammates, trying to make everybody better."

Nelson's path to ECU was much different, as the Mankato, Minn. native transferred two times before finding a home in Greenville. Nelson was named Minnesota's Mr. Football in 2011 and played his first two seasons at the University of Minnesota, throwing for 1,306 yards, nine touchdowns and six interceptions in 2013.

He then transferred to Rutgers for the 2014 season, but didn't take a snap, as he was dismissed after being charged with first and third degree assault stemming from a bar fight. In turn, Nelson walked on to the ECU football team in the fall of 2015.

Given Nelson's experience playing in the Big 10, the quarterback job is far from out of his reach, as he and Benkert have been splitting the first team snaps.

"It's been fun. I think we really thrive off of one another," Nelson said. "I learn a lot from Kurt and I think Kurt learns a lot from me. It's a very healthy relationship and I think that's the way it has to be."

With the Pirates still having to finish spring practice, go through summer workouts and



East Carolina quarterback Kurt Benkert throws during a spring practice.

battle through training camp, the battle is far from over. Both signal callers showing great promise, meaning that there is still a lot of time to see how the quarterback competition shakes out.

"At this point in time for both of us I think a lot of it has to do with staying healthy," Nelson

said. "He's coming off of an ACL. I've torn my ACL, so I know what that's like. A lot of the free time we're taking together has been studying film and trying to keep our bodies healthy."

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Softball’s losing woes continue

ECU drops doubleheader to Longwood

Carson Cherry
TEC STAFF

East Carolina’s losing streak continued to five after losing both games in a doubleheader against Longwood Tuesday night in disappointing fashion.

The first game started slow with both teams remaining scoreless until the bottom of the fourth inning. ECU senior Kelsi Briggs hit a solo home run to give the Pirates the 1-0 lead. The long ball was Briggs’s third of the season.

“It’s the best feeling in the world,” Briggs said on her homerun. “The feeling of hitting it on the sweet spot and knowing you hit it well is just a great feeling.”

In the top of the sixth, Longwood (16-11) got on the scoreboard. With two outs the Pirates (18-18) tried to pick off a Lancer runner, forcing her into a run down in between first and second base. While engaging in the pickle, ECU forgot about the Longwood runner on third base, who ran home to tie the score.

“It’s frustrating,” said head coach Courtney Oliver. “We tell the girls all the time that physical errors are going to happen; mental errors shouldn’t happen and unfortunately we made a very big mental error and it came back to bite us.”

In the top of the eighth inning, ECU junior right-hander Lydia Ritchie surrendered seven Longwood runs in the inning. Ritchie was solid in the first seven innings, allowing only one run. The Pirates attempted a comeback, getting one more run on the board, leaving the game’s final score 8-2.

“I thought Lydia threw a really good game, game one,” Oliver said. “She did have one tough inning towards the end, but we just need to do a better job offensively so she’s not constantly going into extra innings.”

The second game started much of the same, as the first two innings went scoreless. The Lancers were first to get on the board in the third innings after the Pirates got out of a bases-loaded jam, only allowing one run.

The Lancers hitting started to click in the fourth inning, thriving in a two-out rally, adding three more runs to increase their lead to 4-0.

“I thought we did a good job the first three innings, then [Longwood] caught up to us,” said Oliver.

ECU once again tried to answer back by loading the bases in the bottom of the fourth and managed to get two runs, making the score, 4-2. Longwood then added two solo home runs to put the Lancers up four. The last two innings then went scoreless, making the final score, 6-2.

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“It’s frustrating... We tell the girls all the time that physical error are going to happen; mental errors shouldn’t happen and unfortunately we made very bug mental error and it came back to bite us..”
-Courtney Oiver



Top: Senior ECU outfielder Meredith Mitchell attempts to throw the ball back into the infield. Bottom: Head coach Courtney Oliver talks with a player during a game earlier this season.

Pirates hope to rebound

Allison Jobe
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina softball team prepares for another weekend on the road, as it travels to Oklahoma to face Tulsa in a three-day conference series showdown.

“It’s nicer when we’re home, we’re playing on our turf. We’ll be going to Tulsa, which is another school that is going to be receiving votes for top 25. We’re going to have our work cut out for us this week,” ECU head coach Courtney Oliver said.

The Pirates (18-18, 0-3 AAC) are looking for their first American Athletic Conference win in their second year in the conference. The Pirates are looking for a win in the series in hopes of stopping their five-game losing streak.

ECU is coming off of a doubleheader sweep to Longwood on Tuesday.

“Hopefully Longwood will get us in the right mindset and give us some confidence going into the weekend against Tulsa,” Oliver said.

Last year in the first conference meet between the Golden Hurricane (23-6, 2-1 AAC) and the Pirates, Tulsa took the victory in all three games, sweeping ECU.

The Golden Hurricane currently sit second in the American Athletic Conference standings, behind South Florida.

Tulsa is hitting .300 with 181 runs, 159 RBI, 38 doubles, 16 home runs, seven triples, a .429 slugging percentage and a .386 on-base percentage as a team. Senior Caitlin Still leads the Golden Hurricane in the circle with a 1.15 ERA and a 13-1 record.

The Golden Hurricane pitchers have posted a combined 1.81 ERA with 165 strikeouts in 189 innings, and allowed .222 opponents batting average, 161 hits and 49 earned runs.

ECU junior righty Lydia Ritchie currently sits with a 2.31 ERA, 11-6 overall record, 10 complete games, six shutouts and 124 strikeouts against 52 walks.

The Pirates have relied heavily on Ritchie all season, something that shouldn’t change against Tulsa.

The Pirate pitching staff has a 3.49 ERA combined with 213 strikeouts and 115 walks in 228.1 innings of work. They are also holding opposing batters to a .256 average.

Four of ECU’s players on the team have played and started in all 34 contests season; second baseman Megan Quick, shortstop Casey Alcorn, third baseman Karlie Smith and center-field Meredith Mitchell.

This season, the Pirates have blanked six opponents, the most since 2011, but the AAC teams pose a bigger challenge, and it’s one that Oliver knows will be tough.

“[Conference Games] mean much more,” Oliver said simply.

In the American standings, Tulsa sits first in earned runs allowed with 49, runs allowed with 65, hits allowed with 161 and a 1.81 ERA.

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UNCW continued from A8

offense would be Kirk Morgan, who extended his hitting streak to nine games. With his .350 batting average, Morgan finds himself sitting at third-best in the starting lineup.

After not playing for a majority of the season, right fielder Zack Mozingo earned another start Tuesday and went 2-for-4 with one run and one RBI. Godwin hinted after

the Monmouth series that Mozingo could get some more playing time.

“We think we have depth in all positions,” Watkins said. “That’s really valuable for the team.”

With Wolfe starting in the mid-week game, he is now set to start Sunday’s game against Houston, moving Jimmy Boyd to start on Saturday.

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Women’s golf eyes collegiate

Craig Moyer
TEC STAFF

East Carolina women’s golf is looking for a strong finish as they head to Greensboro, North Carolina, for the Bryan National Collegiate this weekend.

With a tough field of competition, head coach Kevin Williams said the team’s experience against top teams so far this season has them feeling confident.

“If we play good, then we know we are capable of beating top 25 schools and we know we are capable of winning the tournament,” Williams said.

The No. 25 ranked Pirates will face off against the No. 21 Virginia Cavaliers, No. 20 Florida State Seminoles and 12 other tough competitors, including four in-state opponents.

ECU knows that if it focuses on its own play, rather than worrying about who it is matching up against, it can finish well in any tournament field.

“Our girls are at a point now that they don’t get too worked up over who’s in the field. We have the mindset of just focusing on us,” Williams said.

With bad weather forecasted for the Greensboro area on Thursday and Friday, the team’s practice round will likely be canceled and the first round could possibly be delayed. Windy conditions are also forecasted throughout the weekend, which will likely make a challenging golf course even tougher.

Battling a hard course, bad weather and a tough field, the Pirates know they must control their emotions and limit their mistakes in order to finish well.

“The teams that are the most patient and make the fewest amount of mistakes and plays level-headed is usually the team that’s going to come out on top,” Williams said.

With the team’s practice round in jeopardy of being cancelled, alongside the fact that ECU has not played in the tournament since 2009, unfamiliarity with the course could potentially cause problems.

The Pirates have already played at Bryan Park Champions course in Greensboro in a tournament earlier this season. The chance to play the course ahead of time will help improve the team’s

chances against the teams who have played the course every season.

The team has been playing well as of late, finishing in fourth or fifth in their past four tournaments and Williams knows that with a couple of small improvements, the team can finish even higher in their upcoming tournaments.

“It’s just a matter of making sure we don’t make the big mental errors and just limit our mistakes as much as we can,” Williams said.

Frida Gustafsson Spang is looking to continue her strong finish to her senior season, as she wraps up her four-year career with the Pirates. Spang has two consecutive individual titles and three first place finishes in four tournaments this spring.

“She just needs to approach each tournament the same way she always has,” Williams said. “If she can just keep her patience, with her talent and her ability, she’s going to be at the top.”

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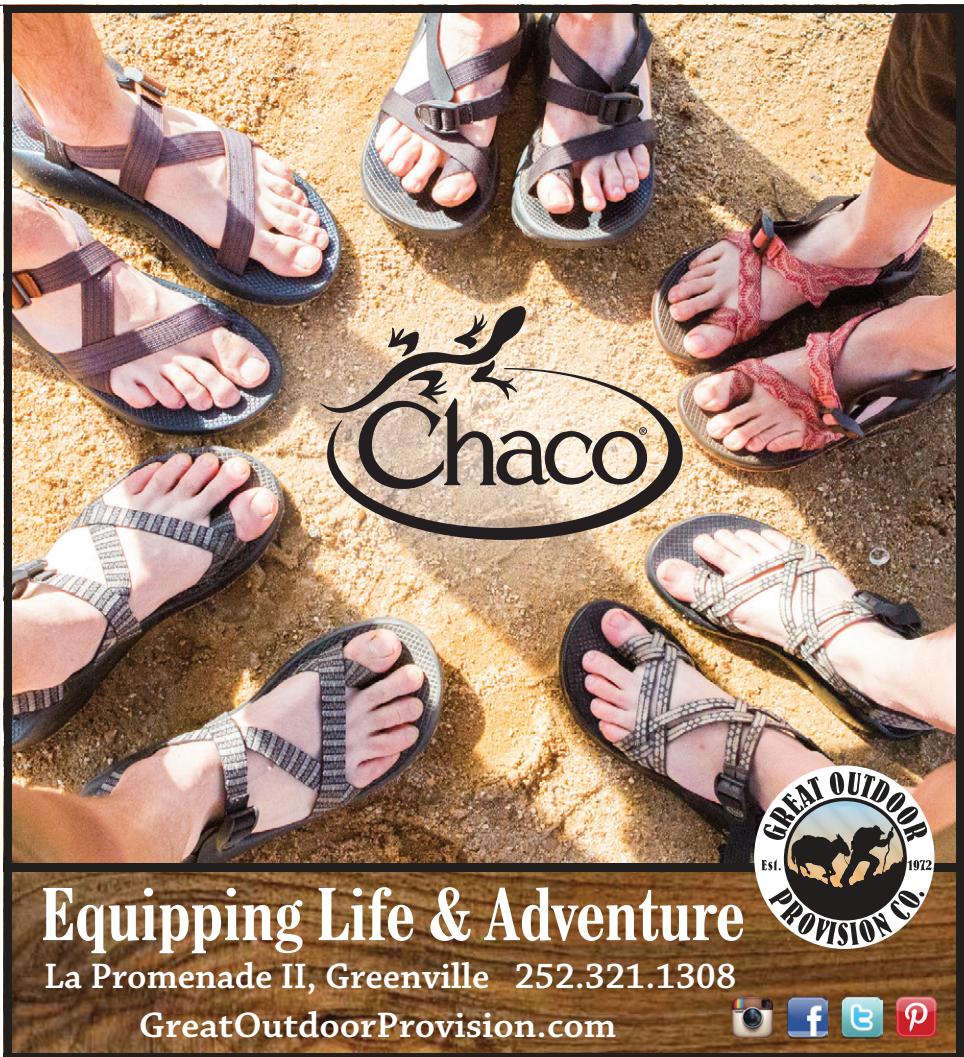
HOUSTON
continued from A8

improvement on its 358 last year. The Cougars have four players batting above .315, with freshman Joe Davis batting .402 with six home runs and 31 RBI, all of which lead the team.

ECU’s lineup is on a hot streak too, as it has 27 hits for 22 runs in the last two games alone. Eric Tyler has the hottest bat with nine RBI in his last two games, with six hits and two home runs.

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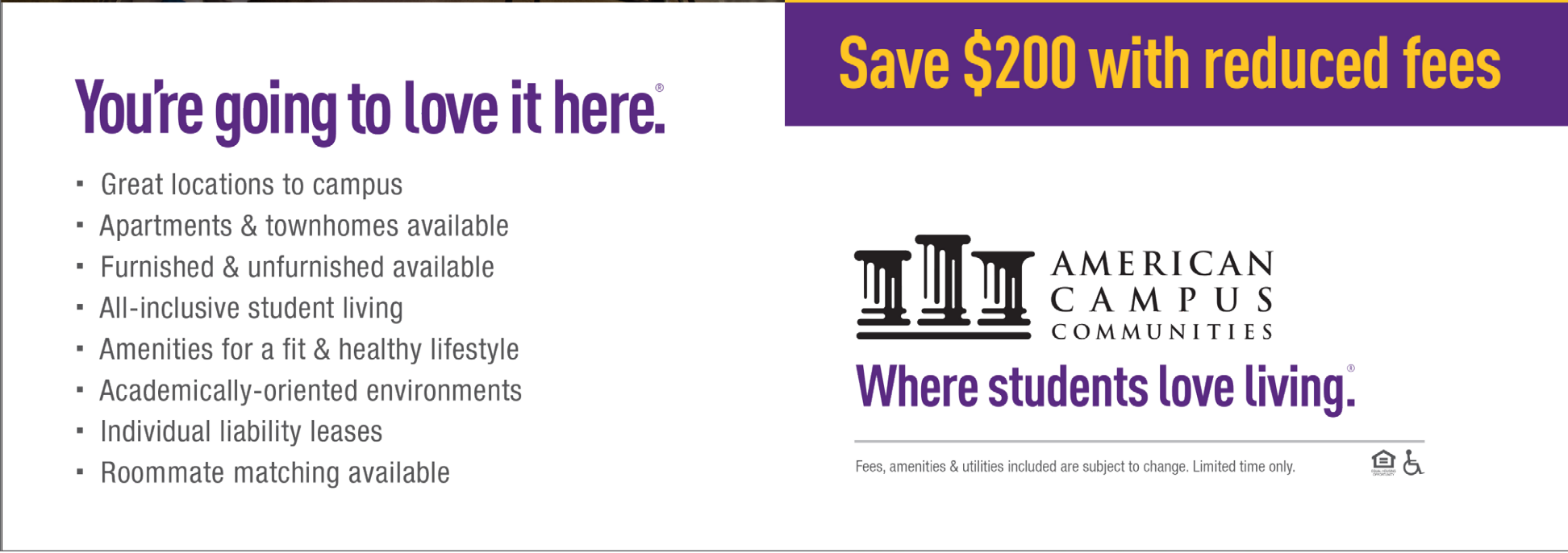
A top-down view of several pairs of feet wearing various styles of Chaco sandals on a sandy surface. The Chaco logo, featuring a lizard and the brand name, is centered in the middle. In the bottom right corner, there is a circular logo for 'GREAT OUTDOOR PROVISION CO. EST. 1972' with a silhouette of a person and a horse. Below the sandals, the text 'Equipping Life & Adventure' is written in a bold, serif font, followed by 'La Promenade II, Greenville 252.321.1308' and 'GreatOutdoorProvision.com'. Social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest are at the bottom right.



The advertisement is split into two main sections. The top section features a black and white photo of a young woman sitting on a wooden deck, wearing a plaid shirt and shorts. Overlaid on the photo is the text 'CASH FOR CLOTHES!'. To the right of the photo, on a yellow background, is the text 'NEW ITEMS EVERY DAY!' and 'Sell what you don't wear'. The bottom section features a black and white photo of a group of five young people sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. To the left of the photo, on a yellow background, is the text 'We're Ready for Spring! Are You?' and 'Plato's Closet Greenville'.



The advertisement is divided into two main parts. The top part features a large yellow background with the text 'Limited spaces remaining for Fall 2016!' in a large, bold, purple font. To the right of this text is a photo of a modern living room with a brown leather sofa, a coffee table, and large windows. Below the photo is the text 'UNIVERSITY MANOR'. The bottom part features a photo of a bedroom with a bed, a desk, and a window. Below the photo is the text 'PIRATES PLACE TOWNHOMES'. To the right of the photo is a yellow background with the text 'GREENVILLESTUDENTHOUSING.COM IS NOW AMERICANCAMPUS.COM'.



The advertisement features a purple background with the text 'You're going to love it here.' in a large, bold, white font. Below the text is a list of bullet points: 'Great locations to campus', 'Apartments & townhomes available', 'Furnished & unfurnished available', 'All-inclusive student living', 'Amenities for a fit & healthy lifestyle', 'Academically-oriented environments', 'Individual liability leases', and 'Roommate matching available'. To the right of the list is the American Campus Communities logo, which consists of three stylized columns and the text 'AMERICAN CAMPUS COMMUNITIES'. Below the logo is the text 'Where students love living.' in a large, bold, white font. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a small line of text: 'Fees, amenities & utilities included are subject to change. Limited time only.' and a small icon of a house with a wheelchair.