



VOLUME 92, ISSUE 35

WILLIAMS RISES AS MEN'S HOOPS STAR

Turn to A6



Tuesday, 1.30.18

'Cupola' to focus on Greek life

Trish Willis
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Division of Student Affairs will host a 'Cupola Conversation' to discuss the changes within the Greek community nationally and how ECU is responding, according to ECU's vice chancellor of Student Involvement and Leadership Erik Kneubuehl.

The conversation is open to students for free tomorrow at 5 p.m. in Mendenhall Student Center's room 244.

"Attendees will learn more about the national discussion from the past to the present," Kneubuehl said. "As the discussion moves toward the future, panelists will talk about ECU's current Greek community, its goals and its future aspirations."

Two ECU fraternities were closed on Jan. 8—Tau Kappa Epsilon (Lambda Psi) and Delta Chi. Both were shut down due to hazing and unlawful behavior, according to a press release from ECU News Services. Due to Greek life closures on this campus and several more nationwide, Kneubuehl said it was time for a discussion on Greek life in higher education.

"This is a broad discussion on issues affecting the Greek community nationally and how we are responding at ECU," Kneubuehl said.

The interim Associate Dean of Students Lauren Thorn, who helped to organize the event, said she hopes this discussion helps students identify people on campus they can turn to with questions and concerns.

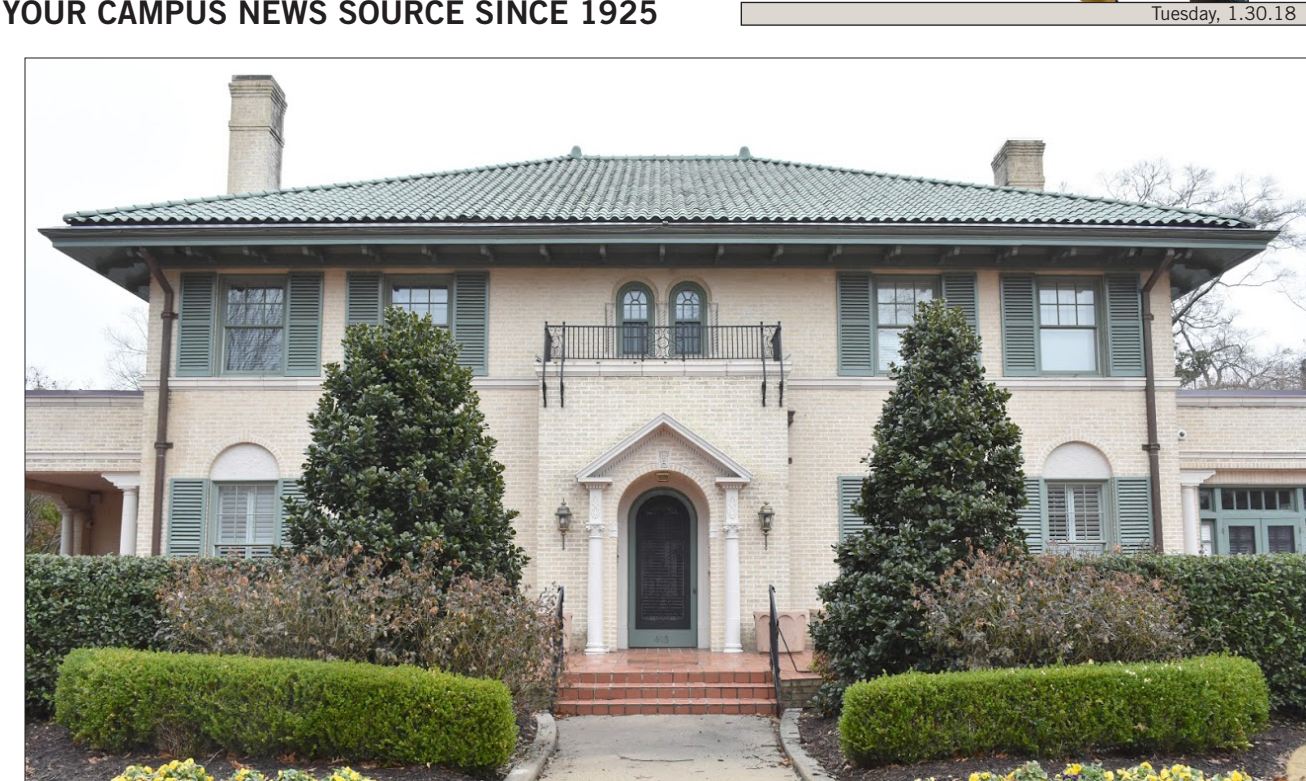
"A lot of times, as individuals, we want to learn more about organizations and communities, but we don't know where to start," Thorn said.

Thorn said this particular 'Cupola Conversation' will allow students to see who major officials in Greek life are and allow potential stigmas and stereotypes to be changed.

The Director of ECU Greek Life John Mountz, also a discussion panelist, said this will be his first time participating in a 'Cupola Conversation,' but is excited to be part of one.

"It makes sense that I would be on the panel, as I am the director," Mountz said. "But I do look forward to having this discussion and giving my input as I view things on this campus and in relation to other campuses."

This writer can be contacted at
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JORDIN WILLIAMS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Dial House, located on Fifth Street, housed ECU chancellors for 60 years. The house currently is in need of major renovations.

Staton house raises brows

Former mayor, TRUNA leader voice concern on Staton's move

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF

The ECU Foundation is purchasing a new home for East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton, but some Greenville residents have conflicting ideas as to the necessity of buying the 11th chancellor a new place of residence.

Staton and his wife have lived in a townhouse since his appointment at ECU in April 2016, according to Christopher Dyba, the president of the ECU Foundation. Dyba said the Dial House, that housed past ECU chancellors for 60 years on Fifth Street, is in need of major renovations that would total to approximately \$3.5 million.

However, former Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas, the current Executive Director of the North Carolina Global TransPark, said there is some confusion where that information came from.

"We are now learning it was rough internal estimate, not an estimate provided by a third-party

engineer, land planner or design firm," Thomas said. "In the multiple years of planning by the university for this project, no professional plans for the block or certified estimates were produced."

Originally, ECU's plan was to renovate the Dial House, according to Hap Maxwell, the president of Tar River/University Neighborhood Association. Maxwell said some of the surrounding property of the Dial House was purchased by ECU Real Estate before the ECU Foundation purchased the new home, located in Star Hill Farms, a neighborhood in Greenville approximately three miles from campus.

"Logic would dictate the total cost of both projects would far exceed the original cost of simply building a new chancellor's residence on the purchased city block by campus and use the current chancellor's residence," Thomas said.

Maxwell said TRUNA does not know what the university intends to do with the surrounding properties.

"We saw it as a good place to live and they want their chancellor there and now they are saying they don't want their chancellor there and it kind of puts a bad taste in all of our mouths, all of the people," Maxwell said.

Traditionally, the city and the university will work together when dealing with the purchase of property, according to Thomas. Thomas also said the university kept its plans to purchase the Star Hills Farm property a secret.

Maxwell added TRUNA was also kept in the dark by the university about the chancellor's future move into the \$1.3 million home in Star Hill Farms.

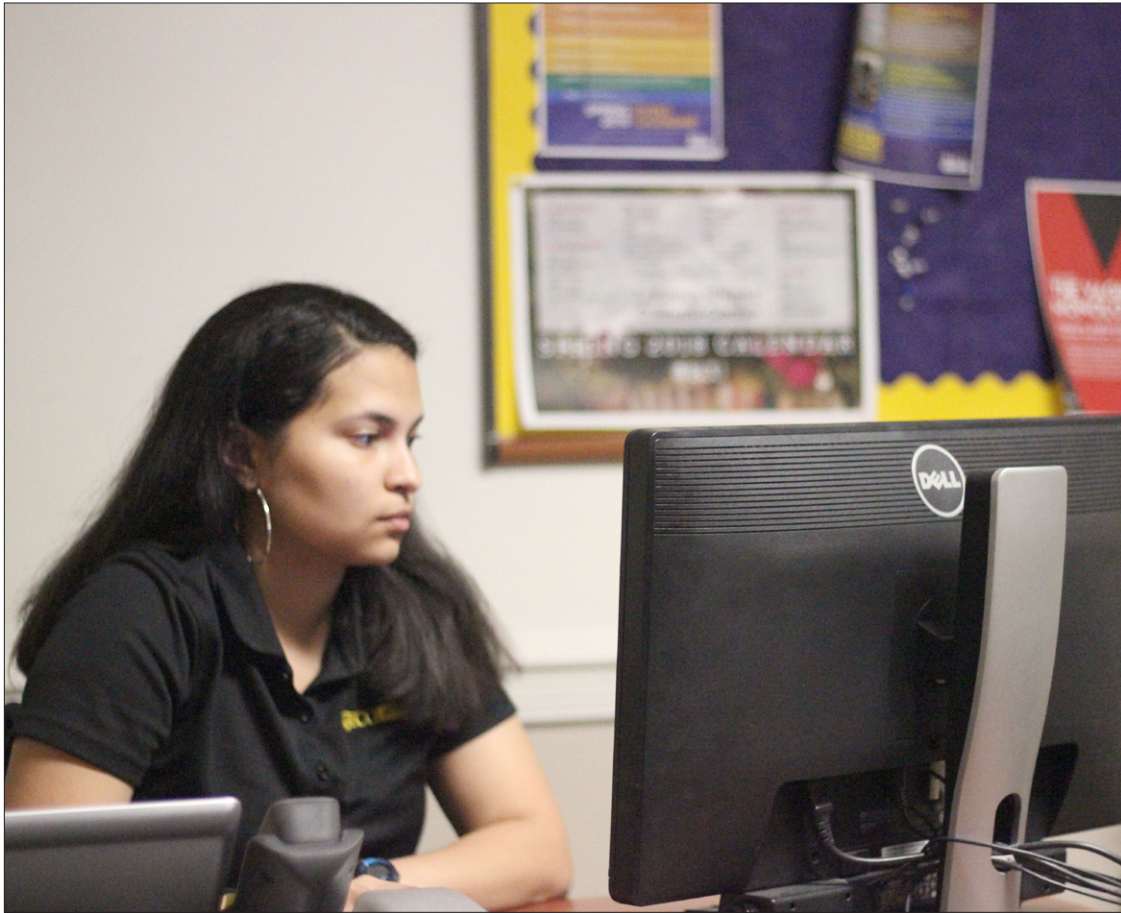
He said he also doesn't know of any future plans for the Dial House, but believes the house will always be the true home of the chancellor.

"The Dial House is the ECU Chancellor's house and it should be," Maxwell said. "The kind of chancellor we need is someone who is a part of the community and living five and a half miles from campus doesn't seem to be a great way to be a part of the community."

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

Ledonia Wright offers culture, diversity

New renovations allow center to bring more opportunities for students



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Amy Principe working at the front desk of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center in the Bloxton House on ECU's campus.

Taylor Nishimoto
TEC STAFF

Specializing in cultural diversity for all walks of life on East Carolina University's campus, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center has made some recent adaptations to create a space of comfort for the ECU community.

The LWCC, located in the Bloxton House on campus across from Mendenhall Student Center, has served as a center that specializes in diversity throughout campus and provides students a safe environment to pray, socialize and relax since the 1970s, according to LWCC Interim Associate Director Mariza James.

The center recently added a few features to enhance the home-away-from-home feel throughout the building, as well as welcome in more students this spring semester.

"In an effort to bring more traffic in the Center, we made a few upgrades in Fall 2017," James said. "We have added board games, a bean bag area for students to study and relax in and meditation cushions for the S.P.A.C.E. (Spiritual Place All Can Enter)."

James said the center is planning on making additional upgrades in the near future and is looking forward to moving to its new location in the new student center, which is projected to open this fall, according to the ECU main campus student center website.

James said she encourages all students to come by and experience the "at home feel" of the Bloxton House.

"I love the home-away-from-home feeling," James said. "We have a full sized kitchen and meeting spaces that are available for use by the ECU community. The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center also has a warm welcoming environment."

Throughout the years the center has developed internally and externally by hosting various types



Mariza James

ONLINE

» Men's tennis remains undefeated after two victories at home

» Men's, women's swim and dive team goes 1-2 at USC Invitational

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Leadership and Civic Engagement to host State of the Union address watch party

East Carolina University's Department of Leadership and Civic Engagement will host a watch party for President Donald Trump's State of the Union address tomorrow night in the Mendenhall Student Center.

This will be Trump's first State of the Union address since taking office as the 45th president of the United States. Trump's State of the Union address is set to outline his 2018 administrative plan for the nation, where he will use this time slot to address nationwide topics of debate such as immigration and infrastructure.

The watch party will take place from 8:30-10 p.m. in MSC's Cynthia's Lounge and refreshments will be provided.

ECU Ledonia Wright Cultural Center to discuss social media

East Carolina University's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will host its first event of its new weekly civil discourse series called "What's The Tea?" tomorrow at 4 p.m.

The discussion will take place in the LWCC and allow participants to share their opinions on social media issues. Refreshments will be provided and the ECU community is welcome to participate. Questions about the program should be sent via email to lwcc@ecu.edu.

Dowdy Student Stores to preview class rings

East Carolina University's Dowdy Student Store will allow students and alumni to preview the official ECU rings today from 3-5 p.m. in the Wright Building. Light refreshments will be available.

Dowdy will be taking ring orders on Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

>> WHERE'S THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

GFR retaliation detailed in records

Court documents depict alleged repeated leadership behavior

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

As City Manager Ann Wall continues to meet with current and former firefighters of Greenville Fire/Rescue, former GFR firefighter Brian Oliver said many are still too fearful to speak out because of possible retaliation.

Oliver, who resigned in 2013 with four years of service, said it's hard for public and city officials to understand just how institutionalized the fear of retaliation has become at GFR and added the risk of being retaliated against stops many firefighters from speaking up.

"The public doesn't understand the pressure some of these guys (firefighters) are facing from their jobs," Oliver said. "They've worked their whole lives to be a firefighter and to think that all that could go away because they make a stand that's unpopular with the (fire) chief could be devastating for them."

Greenville Mayor P.J. Connelly has made it clear that firefighters shouldn't be fearful of retaliation for voicing their concerns.

"No one should be fearful for their job. No one should be fearful for speaking out to their superiors if there is a legitimate issue," Connelly said.



P.J. Connelly

Court documents illustrate a vivid history of alleged retaliatory decisions against firefighters who are members or supporters of the Greenville Professional Firefighters Association (GPPFA), the local branch of the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF).

Specifically, the GPPFA filed a lawsuit on behalf of Lisa Davis-Christ, a current firefighter at GFR, against the city of Greenville and GFR for retaliation in 2014.

The alleged lawsuit presented that current GFR Fire Chief Eric Griffin retaliated against Davis-Christ because of her role as vice president of the GPPFA. Griffin put Davis-Christ on probation for violating the department's residency requirement which ended up allegedly costing her a promotion to lieutenant.

However, at the time Davis-Christ was put on probation, she had recently moved within the department's residency requirement, according to court documents. Despite being in compliance with the residency requirement, the lawsuit alleged Griffin still disciplined her.

"Plaintiff Davis-Christ is the vice president of the GPPFA who has been subjected to unjustified disciplinary action in the form of a probationary period and denied a promotion as part of the Defendant's (Griffin) efforts to weaken and destroy the GPPFA," according to court records.

The lawsuit records also alleged that Griffin made efforts "to instill in the Command Staff a negative attitude toward the GPPFA and its members." The lawsuit also alleged that firefighters became fearful of retaliation if they

However, court records obtained by The East Carolinian through multiple public records requests show GFR has a history of alleged retaliation against firefighters.

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Greenville Fire/Rescue headquarters is located at 500 S. Greene Street along with GFR Station 1.

supported the GPPFA as a result.

Before the lawsuit, Davis-Christ appealed the disciplinary decision to the Greenville Personnel Advisory Review Board, according to court records. The three-person panel made up of a GFR firefighter, a Greenville Police Department police officer and another city employee voted unanimously to overturn Griffin's decision to discipline Davis-Christ.

"Due to a lack of notices that the residency requirement was going to be enforced, and based on the facts that she (Davis-Christ) had documentation supporting that her current residence was in compliance with the Residency Policy, it is the (Personnel Advisory Review) Board's opinion that the disciplinary action was imposed prematurely," according to court documents.

Davis-Christ's lawsuit was eventually settled out of court, according to court records.

The lawsuit wasn't the only instance where the city was notified of alleged retaliation on the part of GFR's leadership. In 2013, the Greenville City Council and Lipscomb were given a copy of a GFR morale survey which identified Griffin as a significant concern to firefighters.

Among the anonymous responses to the morale survey, firefighters said Griffin would unfairly discipline or retaliate against GFR employees, according to the 2013 morale survey. The East Carolinian obtained a copy of the survey through a public records request.

"The few employees that do stand up for others get reprimanded for opening their mouths. This 'coming together' and 'brotherhood' that our officers are always preaching needs to start at the top and maybe then the blue shirts will follow," one GFR firefighter said, whose name was not provided because the survey was anonymous.

Multiple individuals who served on the Greenville City Council in 2013 confirmed

to The East Carolinian in September that the council did receive the survey and forwarded it to Lipscomb.

After multiple attempts to get any comment from GFR or Lipscomb, no calls or emails were returned to The East Carolinian by any official in the city of Greenville or Lipscomb regarding any part of this story.

Since the lawsuit, Tom Brewer, the president of the Professional Firefighters and Paramedics Association of North Carolina, said the GPPFA is no longer affiliated with the state. The PFFPNC is the state branch of the larger IAFF.

Due to the loss of membership the GPPFA experienced, being affiliated with the state became a financial burden, Brewer said.

The East Carolinian asked the GPPFA for an interview as part of this story, but instead received a statement. A high ranking member of the association, whose name is being withheld because he is a current GFR firefighter, declined to be interviewed. However, he said the court records speak for themselves.

"Under no circumstances can you use my name, because I'll be retaliated against, no doubt," the high ranking member of the GPPFA told The East Carolinian. "(Retaliation) has been going on for the last five years"

Brewer said he's heard from multiple GFR firefighters that if they associate themselves with the GPPFA it would hurt their chances of being promoted or career in general.

"If the city lost in court, I believe it's human nature that you would be resentful that you lost," Brewer said. "If you're asking me if I could tell you people have been retaliated against since the lawsuit? I couldn't answer that. Do people feel that they will be retaliated against? I'm 100 percent confident in saying that."

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

“ We want to create safe environments for the ECU community wherein power, privilege and stereotypical assumptions are examined using meaningful dialogue... ”

-Mariza James

LWCC

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Shydeik Wood

of events geared toward promoting diversity to the ECU community. It has also appointed a collective of individuals to implement ways to make cultural diversity appealing to both students and faculty.

"Upstairs, we have a cultural board that puts together different cultural events to broaden people's perspective," Shydeik Wood, a student office assistant for the LWCC, said. "We recently had a cultural cuisine (event) where you get to try different cuisines from different cultures."

Wood said students should come out

to Bloxton and attend events hosted by the center in order to broaden their horizons when it comes to diversity, as well as interact with other students from different cultures and backgrounds.

James added it is important to remember ECU is made up of people from different cultures and backgrounds. She said having this department on campus has benefitted many students.

"We want to create safe environments for the ECU community wherein power, privilege and stereotypical assumptions are examined using meaningful dialogue, mutual sharing and reflection," James said.

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OUR VIEW

Campus events for females should embrace intersectionality

East Carolina University has made positive strides toward female empowerment with programs such as the “Lift Like A Girl” strength clinics, where females can improve their physical abilities and the Women’s Roundtable, a campus leadership organization for women.

However, in terms of breaking the boundaries of exploration past the average woman, the university has much needed room for improvement.

As a university with a female student body makeup of more than 58 percent, ECU has a responsibility to go beyond societal restraints, such as the gender wage gap and colorism in the cosmetic industry, to appeal and educate the student body on the various differences in femininity.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, implore departments at ECU to create events tailored to a female spectrum, not a female itself. Only recently has our society come to understand female inclusiveness and there is much work that needs to be done in order to advance on this subject.

Today and everyday, ECU has the opportunity to work toward female inclusivity for the betterment of the campus community, and such work must not be delayed.

Women of differing racial identities, personalities, sexual identities, ethnic identities and body types are an essential part of the diverse makeup of ECU’s student body. By implementing educative forums about feminine diversity such as school-wide workshops on female leadership and LGBTQIA+ allyship or collaborative efforts in partnership with diverse women, ECU can begin to take the necessary steps toward enforcing a more intersectional and female-inclusive campus.

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

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>>>SOUND OFF

Trump’s remarks stir debate

Comments secondary to bigger issues at hand



Corey Goss
GUEST COLUMNIST

Defending every remark President Donald Trump makes is quite the herculean task that many consider a full-time job. The only endeavor more daunting is attacking every word that comes out of the executive’s mouth, which seems to be why so many Americans are squalling about President Trump merely speaking truth. One of the latest controversies revolve around the President referring to a few shithole countries as, well, shitholes.

For readers who may not be aware, in a meeting with some international policy advisors, Trump referred to a number of countries as “shitholes.” The most overused and annoying attack against Trump is he is not presidential. The concept of being presidential is entirely a social construct, since it is a concept everyone has a different definition for. President Thomas Jefferson was seen as unpresidential for impregnating one of his slaves, President Bill Clinton

for committing adultery (but who could blame him,) President Obama for smoking, President George Washington fought in a war for God’s sake. My point is the term is over-used by people whose feelings are hurt and want someone to blame.

The fact of the matter is that the countries that Trump bashed are shitholes. To be completely honest, Trump’s word choice was impressively restrained. However, it cannot be logically inferred the President was referring necessarily to the citizens of each country he dubbed subpar. It is far more plausible the countries are the way they are due to their totalitarian leadership and corrupt governments. In other words, it isn’t the country President Trump dislikes, but it’s its cruel regimes.

Take Yemen for example, one of the countries Trump included in his statement of regarding shithole countries. Yemen suffers from violent streets, constant civilian conflict that often turns fatal, low life expectancy and little to no quality of life. Instead of getting your feelings hurt by the word the United States President used to describe

this shithole, you should be upset by the tyrannical government and high level of U.S. intervention in the region.

Although many on the left believe Trump’s comments cause divide within the U.S. on the international stage, Trump’s flagrant honesty is a breath of fresh air. It is worth noting that Trump called some countries “shitholes,” because they are menaces to freedom and violate human rights constantly. However, Americans only paid attention to Trump’s word choice.

If you are going to be offended by anything, be offended by the fact that people in Venezuela are starving while their leaders rake in millions. Instead of a word, be offended that chemical weapons are used against Syrian citizens for trying to keep their government accountable. Instead of being offended by the word “shithole,” be offended by the fact that women in Syria and Iran cannot drive and do not receive justice after a rape or sexual assault.

Corey Goss is a junior majoring in criminal justice and a guest columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Word choice shows attitude of global north



Alex Fortune
GUEST COLUMNIST

In a recent meeting on immigration, President Donald Trump used the phrase, “shithole” to describe Haiti, El Salvador and the entire continent of Africa. Many reacted with shock and disgust at the vulgarity of his remark, as well as the xenophobic underpinnings, while Fox News’ Jesse Watters claimed it as, “How the forgotten men and women in America talk at the bar.”

However, Trump’s comments really reflect the deep, systematic divide between the global north and global south— a divide created and perpetuated by hundreds of years of imperialism and resource exploitation. In looking at the actions of the global north, Trump’s language will become increasingly more infuriating because of how Western nations created the downtrodden state of many countries.

We, in the global north, call them the Third World or developing nations, because calling them countries trying to rebuild, after

being invaded, occupied and exploited to ruin, does not have the same ring to it.

In 1804, after being occupied by French colonizers, Haiti staged the most successful slave revolt in history. They shirked their occupiers and slave owners and gained independence.

However, in this period of the United States’ history, we were continuing to enslave millions of people, and we feared this would inspire local slave uprisings. We then refused to recognize their statehood, enacting a crippling embargo lasting for decades.

Meanwhile France, by means of military force, coerced Haiti into paying reparations for every slave freed. They were forced to take out loans from U.S. and French banks to pay back these reparations. The United States and France created a cycle of oppression, in order to absolutely destroy a small island nation, for daring to fight for its independence from an occupying force.

This cruel financial burdening, at the hands of some of the richest nations on earth, in addition to the recurring natural disasters the island suffers, means that if Haiti is a “shithole,” then it was created by the

U.S. and France and not born like that.

On a macro level, European imperial powers are responsible for the ravaging of Africa. There was a CNN report about slave markets in Libya, prompting outrage across the nation. Slave markets in Libya did not just appear out of nowhere. Black Libyans and sub-Saharan workers were systematically subjected to cruelties and ethnic cleansing at the hands of the NATO backed NTC Misratan militias.

These are just two examples of countries in the global south that have been targeted, and systematically crippled by United States/ European interventionist policies. Trump’s “shithole” comment is a vulgar, base-level example of the irony that Western nations can mock the destitution of these countries, all while being the root cause of their pain. His comments are disgusting, but more disgusting is the collective oppression that these countries face by seeking independence from the global north through their fight against Western imperialism.

Alex Fortune is a senior majoring in classical studies and a guest columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

The ECU Student Media Board welcomes membership applications

Day Student Representative

The board is seeking a full-time student interested in serving as the day student representative on the Student Media Board, the 13-person board that governs Student Media (WZMB, Rebel, The East Carolinian, Expressions, Buccaneer, Hook, and The Agency.)

For applications, Contact:

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252.328.9238
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Blending new culture, credits

Summer study abroad deadline tommorow for ECU students

Nicolette Giambalvo
TEC STAFF

Jet Setting across the North Atlantic Ocean to Granada, Spain, the now-senior Blair Timberlake looked out the plane window with pure excitement. Little did she know that when she landed, she'd spend the next two months making countless memories while also learning a thing or two.

For those that want to immerse themselves in a new culture while also getting college credit, East Carolina University summer study abroad applications are due tomorrow. The application is an online process that also offers financial aid and scholarships opportunities for most students.

Pirates Abroad offers summer programs just about anywhere for a variety of departments. For fashion merchandising majors, there are programs offered in Madrid, Spain, as well as opportunities to see performances in Poland for theater and dance majors. Students can learn more information about these programs at piratesabroad.ecu.edu.

Timberlake, a current senior public health major, said although adapting to the language and time difference was difficult at first, her trip to Spain the summer before her junior year was the best two months of her life.

Besides earning class credit overseas, studying abroad gives students the opportunity to intermingle with people from all over the world and exposes them to a variety of different cultures, according to ECU's study abroad website.

While in Granada, Timberlake received 12 credit hours for studying Spanish 3, Spanish 4, Spanish conversation and Spanish composition. She said that completely immersing herself in the Spanish culture for two months taught her more than a textbook ever could.

While overseas, Timberlake resided with a host mom in a two-bedroom apartment in the center of the city. She said her host mom didn't even understand the word "yes" in English, so

her initial thought was, "I'm screwed."

"Not knowing how to communicate with my host mom was the most overwhelming part in the beginning," Timberlake said. "After my dad dropped me off I sat in my bedroom and cried to my mom on the phone begging her to fly me back to the States."

After getting her host mom familiar with Google Translate and learning the Spanish language more through her courses, Timberlake said communicating became a lot easier. She said the only other uncomfortable part about the city apartment and Granada as a whole was the lack of air conditioning.

Overall, Timberlake said the trip abroad changed the person she was. She said she became a better version of herself and didn't realize how much she was missing out on prior to the trip.

"I wouldn't have ever considered myself as an independent person beforehand, but going there and forcing myself to do things on my own made me so much more independent," Timberlake said. "I'm a better version of myself since that summer."

Spanish professor and study abroad coordinator, Rosa Lopez-Canete, has been traveling abroad with students for seven years and said it never gets old. Lopez-Canete added her favorite part about serving as a study abroad coordinator and traveling with her students is seeing the friendships that form between ECU students and the reunions they hold together afterward.

According to Lopez-Canete, ECU has a surprisingly low rate for study abroad, currently sitting at about 2.5 percent. However, she said as the study abroad program has grown and become more organized, more students are beginning to show interest and sign up.

Every year Lopez-Canete holds a pre-departure dinner meeting at her house where she chefs up a Spanish cuisine to get everybody in the spirit for the trip. She said she even invites the students' parents to the dinner to answer



DANIELLE SCHMID | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Buildings face the Vltava river in the Czech Republic. Study abroad applications are due tomorrow.

any questions or concerns they may have.

"I cook authentic Spanish meals to slowly introduce the students to the type of food they'll have when traveling to the Spanish countries," Lopez-Canete said.

As an experienced traveler, Lopez-Canete said she encourages all students to study abroad at least once because it is a way to knock out credits while also getting an authentic cultural experience.

Lopez-Canete said spending summer break immersed in the culture of another country is an unbelievable experience, but getting the opportunity to escape Greenville for a semester could perhaps be the getaway a student may need.

Taking a study abroad trip to the Central European area instead of the Iberian Peninsula, junior management information systems major, Emily Lester, said she is just as excited as

Timberlake was to spend a semester overseas.

"I'm so excited but also so nervous," Lester said as she packed her bags. "I'm leaving for a semester-long study abroad trip starting mid-February to the capital of the Czech Republic."

Lester is taking 12 credits studying international marketing, international management, Czech history and Czech language. To prepare herself for the unfamiliar language, Lester downloaded a Czech language app that teaches her four new words a day.

"Studying abroad is definitely something that would typically be out of my comfort zone," Lester said in a phone interview. "In the end, going to Prague will change me for the better by making me a more well-rounded person with new experiences and new friendships that I'll carry with me for a lifetime."

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Chrisette Michele to speak in Hendrix

Angel De Jesus
TEC STAFF

In a world where having differing opinions can lead to a heated debate, R&B singer/songwriter and Grammy Award winning artist, Chrisette Michele, plans to speak to East Carolina University students about diversity issues.

Michele will spark the discussion with students tomorrow at 6 p.m. inside Hendrix Theatre in an event that is free to students with their ICard.

The event is a part of the Student Activities Board's S.P.A.R.K series, a series of events started by the organization to celebrate diversity and differing opinions. Michele will speak to students about valuing one's own opinion, as well as how to deal with personal adversity.

SAB Advisor Darrius Barrow said he believes having Michele speak to students is beneficial because of her diverse talents and experiences. Barrow also believes Michele can offer a unique perspective to students, so that they can be exposed to her ideals.

"She is a versatile talent, being a Grammy winner, poet, singer and songwriter," Barrow said. "But what a lot of people don't know is that she is all about celebrating women empowerment and she has a unique perspective because of her experiences from around the world."

The New York native has been known to make many songs about female empowerment such as "Epiphany," "Best of Me" and "Unbreakable." Having dealt with personal trauma, such as a miscarriage, an eating disorder and depression, Michele, with the help of yoga and religion, has made steps toward recovery, according to an interview she did with Black Entertainment Television's Jasmine Washington back in October.

Although she has been active in celebrating black culture and women, Michele received backlash from many in the African-American community after she performed at President Donald Trump's inauguration last year, that caused a lot of the



Chrisette Michele

trauma she had been dealing with,
“She is a versatile talent,
being a Grammy
winner, poet, singer
and songwriter...”
-Darrius Barrow

according to her interview with Washington.

Michele explained why she performed in an interview with "The Breakfast Club," a New York City radio show, in November, and said although she did not agree with Trump as president, she wanted to send a message to him and regrets the performance.

Some fans, such as Greenville resident Bianca Arthur, believe Michele deserves to be heard by students but hopes others understand why some in the African American community were upset with her decision.

"I definitely love her music and appreciate what she has done for our people, especially with her message of celebrating black beauty for women," Arthur said. "But her performing at Trump's inauguration was in poor taste, I thought, and not the best choice, but hey, she's a human and she deserves to be heard just like the rest of us."

As a part of the S.P.A.R.K series this event plans to serve as a platform for discussion, according to Barrow.

One of SAB's most recent S.P.A.R.K events in September was with former contestant on ABC's "The Bachelor" and eventual lead on "The Bachelorette," Kaitlyn Bristowe. Bristowe spoke to students about online bullying after she was sent hate mail from viewers of the two shows.

SAB Initiative Chair, Holly Campbell, said S.P.A.R.K events are important to students because they offer unique perspectives on hot topics.

"I think that this (upcoming event) is important because there are so many different beliefs and opinions," Campbell said. "And it is important for students to know how to accept those and talk about them."

This writer can be contacted at
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NC

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Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jennifer Arnold

Physician, Cancer Survivor, and Star of "The Little Couple"

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ECU

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HOROSCOPES

Aries
Today is a 7
-- Prioritize love, family and fun despite surprises. Get organized, and coordinate plans for maximum ease and efficiency. Persuade with treats and good music.

Taurus
Today is a 7
-- Focus on domestic priorities. Quick action saves a bundle. Take advantage of current circumstances. A little paint works a miracle.

Gemini
Today is a 7
-- Communication provides the key to unlock a situation. Don't assume that anyone's forgotten anything. Balance accounts. Put together a clear timeline. Research story details.

Cancer
Today is a 9
-- Monitor cash flow to minimize losses. Shop for bargains, and negotiate terms. Plug a financial leak. Use old stuff in a new way.

Leo
Today is an 8
-- Polish your image with a new haircut or outfit. Rest, eat well and pamper yourself with a special treat. Recharge to keep providing steady leadership.

Virgo
Today is a 6
-- Review past dreams, and consider future possibilities. Check considerations, and then choose your action plan to fulfill what you want now. Completions satisfy.

Libra
Today is an 8
-- All hands on deck. Develop and refine your team strategy. Friends and colleagues provide the missing links. Do what you can to help.

Scorpio
Today is an 8
-- Stand your ground. A professional challenge requires a cool head and quick action when the timing is right. Pay attention, and stay ready.

Sagittarius
Today is an 8
-- Get ready to move. You can take wide ground once you get going. Prepare and pack lightly. Organize for greater ease of motion.

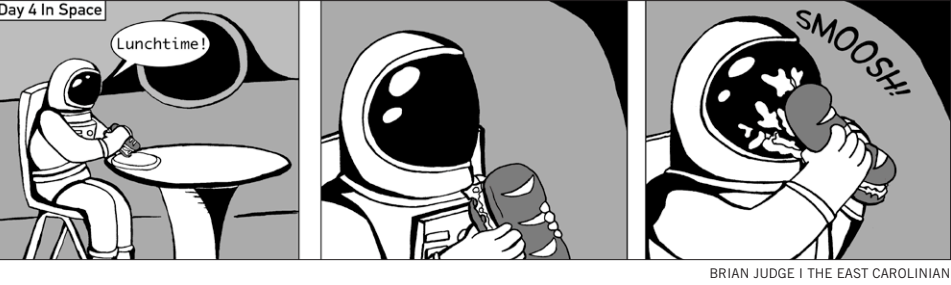
Capricorn
Today is an 8
-- Handle financial matters with joint accounts. Coordinate actions. Send invoices and pay bills. Sign contracts and budgets. Get terms in writing.

Aquarius
Today is a 7
-- Rely on the support of a reliable partner. Repay the favor with a thoughtful gesture or valuable contribution. Share resources, connections and comfort.

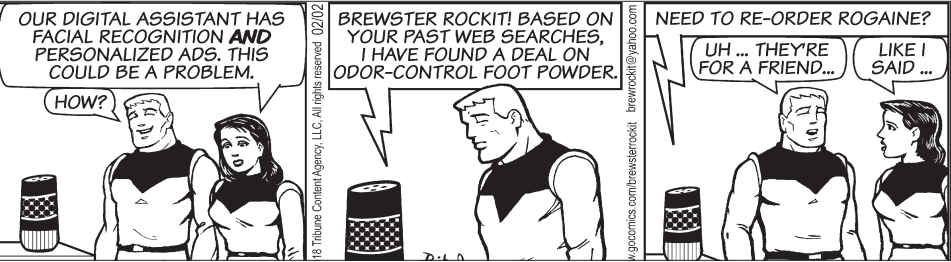
Pisces
Today is an 8
-- Physical exercise and action energize you. Maintain practices to keep growing your strength and endurance. Provide excellent service. Rest, and enjoy the view.

COMICS

ONE AND ONLY



BREWSTER ROCKIT



BEST IN SHOW



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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

Level:
1 2
3 4

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

Solution from Thursday

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

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CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18	19					20			
21	22	23		24					25			
26			27			28		29				
30					31		32			33	34	35
			36			37		38				
39	40	41			42		43			44		
45					46				47			
48				49					50	51	52	53
54				55					56			
57				58					59			

ACROSS

- 1 Joker, e.g.
- 5 Classic equine sitcom
- 9 "___ in Black"
- 12 Dog in "Garfield" comics
- 13 Fox of "Sanford & Son"
- 14 French friend
- 15 Anna Sten movie
- 16 Sara and Farrow
- 17 Singer Ocasek
- 18 Russell and Redbone
- 20 "___ Stalkings"
- 21 L-P connection
- 24 Sitcom co-starring Clifton Davis
- 25 Actress Amanda
- 26 Gary Burghoff on "M*A*S*H"
- 28 "I Know How He Feels" singer McEntire
- 30 "The Last of ___"
- 32 Taylor and Adoree
- 36 Berry and Norton
- 38 Jay Silverheels role
- 39 Ernestine or Virginia
- 42 Marlo Thomas sitcom, "___ Girl"
- 44 Actress Doris
- 45 Moran of "Happy Days"

Solution from Thursday

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

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- 46 Hunt of "Mad About You"
- 48 Puppeteer Baird
- 49 Singer Billy
- 50 Columnist Bombeck
- 54 "The Fresh Prince of ___ -Air"
- 55 Meara of "Archie Bunker's Place"
- 56 "Maude" producer Norman
- 57 Stallone or Stone
- 58 Irene of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- 59 "The ___ Ranger"

DOWN

- 1 Nicolas Cage film, "___ Air"
- 2 Nabokov heroine
- 3 Tin Tin's first name?
- 4 "Let's Make a ___"
- 5 Teri Garr/Michael Keaton movie
- 6 Rob of "All in the Family"
- 7 Lou Grant's portrayer
- 8 Tooth specialist: abbr.
- 9 Song from "West Side Story"
- 10 Watson of "Breaking the Waves"
- 11 Singer Stevie
- 19 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
- 20 Joe of "Hill Street Blues"
- 21 "Mr. and ___ North"
- 22 Slangy negative
- 23 "___ to Billie Joe"
- 27 Clay of "American Idol"
- 29 Midler sitcom
- 31 Edwards of "ER"
- 33 "Howards ___"
- 34 JFK data
- 35 Chinese sauce
- 37 "Morning Train" singer Easton
- 39 Jack and Clifton
- 40 Disney's Little Mermaid
- 41 "Howdy Doody" character Dally
- 43 Steve or Woody
- 47 Jodie Foster film
- 49 Glass container
- 51 ___ Speedwagon
- 52 "___ from Atlantis"
- 53 "People ___ Funny"

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The East Carolinian

>> ANALYSIS

Men’s hoops ready to face Green Wave



Tyler Gavin
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University men’s basketball team aims to break its two-game losing streak tomorrow, against the Green Wave of Tulane University at 6:30 p.m. inside Minges Coliseum. The Pirates (8-12, 2-7 AAC) return to home-court after a dreadful road trip where ECU fell to the University of Cincinnati and Southern Methodist University by a combined 51 points, making its record 1-5 on the road this season. Tulane (12-8, 3-5 AAC) who has made major improvements since finishing last season just 6-25, enters Greenville to face ECU behind forward Melvin Frazier. The Green Wave’s Frazier has seized control of this offense with extreme efficiency, averaging 17.1 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. There have been two noticeable differences leading to the success of Tulane this season. Last season the Green Wave only shot 39.4 percent from the field, ranking dead last in the American Athletic Conference, but this year they have bumped that percentage up to 45 percent, second best in the conference. Add in the unselfishness of Tulane, which also ranks second in the AAC in assists with 15.8 per game, and it’s clear how head coach Mike Dunleavy Sr. turned this team around in just his second season.

For the Pirates to get back to their winning ways, they need guard B.J. Tyson to take over as the primary scorer again, as it has been four games since the senior guard has led ECU in scoring. While redshirt freshman guard Shawn Williams has exploded recently, receiving the AAC’s Rookie-of-the-Week award for the second time this season last week, without Tyson’s productivity, the likelihood of the Pirates winning games decreases significantly.

This game also pits the two worst rebounding teams in the AAC against each other, as ECU’s negative-five rebounding margin ranks only ahead of Tulane’s negative seven-and-a-half. The Pirates will look to take advantage of Tulane’s poor rebounding and help gain some momentum on the glass heading into their matchups against tougher AAC teams.

ECU has the chance to gain momentum at home in Minges Coliseum on Wednesday as the game will air nationally on ESPNNEWS.

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

>> WOMEN’S BASKETBALL



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Junior point guard Alex Frazier gathers her shot in a home matchup for East Carolina against the University of Connecticut in a 96-35 loss.

ECU’s first AAC road win Pirates set to face Wichita State after OT victory

Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University’s women’s basketball team improved to 11-10 overall and 3-5 in the American Athletic Conference after its 79-70 thrilling overtime victory against the University of Cincinnati Saturday afternoon to earn its first AAC road win on the season.

After coming off a 64-58 loss against Tulane University, where the Pirates were riddled with turnovers, the team regrouped to defeat the 13-7, 5-2 AAC Bearcats that were ranked third in the AAC. “I think we came together and talked about what we did wrong and what we did right in the Tulane game,” freshman guard Lashonda Monk said. “We came together and worked on those things and it showed in the game against Cincinnati.”

The Pirates’ poor free throw shooting has doomed them all season long, as they place last in the AAC in free throw shooting percentage (58.9 percent). But in Saturday’s game, ECU looked like a completely different team from the foul line as they shot an efficient 90.9 percent from the charity stripe while converting 20-for-22 free throws to help propel the Pirates to victory.

It was an evenly played game in the first half, but the Pirates found themselves down 26-19 at the 3:37 mark in the second quarter. They would come back to tie the game at 30 by converting 7-for-8 free throws to close

out the half. Cincinnati took control in the third quarter and claimed a 51-41 lead at the 2:30 mark in the period. However, the Pirates responded by hitting four straight free throws to help cut the Bearcats’ lead to six at the end of the quarter.

The free throws were critical in ECU’s comeback victory as it helped put junior point guard Alex Frazier in position to tie the game with a floater 15 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter to force the game into overtime. ECU would then convert 3-for-4 free throws in the overtime period that would help outscore Cincinnati 11-2 in OT.

“Those free throws were very important because everyday we emphasize making our percentages in practice,” junior forward Salita Greene said. “Some us haven’t done necessarily well consistently with our free throw shooting so we just tried to get the mental preparation right and I think we did that in the Cincinnati game.”



Salita Greene

ECU will look to build off of its momentum from its win as it returns home to face the red-hot Wichita State Shockers at Minges Coliseum tonight at 7. This is the first time in ECU history that the Pirates will play the Shockers due to Wichita State’s move to the AAC in spring 2017.

The Shockers enter tonight’s game riding a five game winning streak coming off their 77-64 win Sunday afternoon against Memphis University (10-12, 5-3 AAC). Shockers forward Rangie Bessard leads the team in points per game with 18.7, that is

good for fifth best in the AAC, while also leading the team in rebounds (7.8) and blocks per game (1.23).

Wichita State is the exact opposite of ECU in terms of efficiency from the free throw line, as the Shockers lead the AAC in free throw percentage at 77.1 percent. According to Greene, the Pirates have to make an effort to keep the Shockers from shooting too many free throws while at the same time, convert on their own free throw attempts, like they did against Cincinnati.

“We know that we can’t play defense with our hands,” Greene said. “I think helping the helper, which is what we try to work a lot on, is going to be very important against Wichita so we don’t pick up any dumb fouls.”

Wichita State however, has the second worst road record in the AAC, currently sitting at 2-8, with its only two victories coming during its win streak, against Memphis and Tulane.

So in a game such as tonight’s, it’s very important for the Pirates to capitalize on their home court advantage in order to snap the Shockers’ five-game win streak and win back-to-back AAC games for the first time this season.

“With short preparation after Saturday’s game, being at home will help us get our legs back under us,” head coach Heather Macy said. “We were away all last week and we’re going up against a team we haven’t played before and vice versa for them, so there will probably be a lot of in game adjusting just based off that they’ll be a different team from what we’re use to facing.”

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

Men’s basketball has new sharp shooter

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

For East Carolina University, there is one basketball player who has added another dimension to the Pirate offense. In the last couple of seasons the men’s basketball team has lacked a true three-point weapon, but now redshirt freshman guard Shawn Williams has stepped up and taken the role head on.

Due to NCAA ruling, Williams did not play during the 2016-17 season, but was given the opportunity to practice with the team during the spring semester.

This year, Williams has shown signs of dominance in his playing time given by interim head coach Michael Perry. Williams has scored in double figures in 13 games this season, while averaging 16 points in the past four contests. He shot an average of 52.6 percent from the field (20-for-38) and a three point field goal percentage of 44 percent (12-for-27). Williams was named American Athletic Conference Player-of-the-Week twice this season due to his performance.

Williams scored a career-high 22 points in the 90-52 blowout against the University of South Florida on Jan. 17 on 8-for-12 shooting and 6-for-9 from three point range. Williams showed he can perform on the road, along with the team taking on the University of Cincinnati on Jan. 20. He scored 15 points to lead the way for the Pirates, registering 15 points on 6-for-13 from the field and 3-for-9 from three-point range. In Sunday’s game against SMU, Williams scored in double-digits (14) for the fourth straight game and added

a pair of assists.

“He had to adjust and learn when and when not to take certain shots. He was thinking about quite a bit early on but we anticipated that because it’s an adjustment from high school,” Perry said. “He can shoot the basketball. Outside of that he is very enthusiastic and plays with a smile on his face,”

At the beginning of Williams’ basketball career, he said the game was something that meant more to him than what it does to other people.

“Since I was a young boy, like three years old, basketball was something that kept me out of trouble,” Williams said. “My mom would turn on the TV and basketball would be on. I would be quiet, that’s how I knew that I loved the game of basketball.”

After his sophomore year of high school, Williams transferred and played for Maumelle High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he had a dominant showing his senior year for the team. Williams averaged 23 points, 3.3 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 1.7 steals per game while leading the team to a 25-5 overall record. In the state championship game, Williams scored 44 points, but it was not enough as his team had a runner-up finish in the Arkansas High School Athletic Association 5A tournament.

While playing as well as he did in high school, the accolades help show what type of player Williams was in high school. Williams was named to the 2016 AHSAA 5A Boy’s All-State Team. He was selected to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette All-Arkansas



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

East Carolina University’s redshirt freshman guard Shawn Williams protects the ball from a defender.

Boy’s Prep First-Team and the American Family Insurance All-USA Arkansas boys basketball team.

“It was great, I kind of saw this coming because I had put in so much work and I knew that something good had to come out of this hard work,” Williams said. “Just being able to do that, it was a great experience, and now I am playing well at the college level, it’s what I have been waiting on.”

Williams decided to sign his national letter of intent commit to ECU after seeing what the school and basketball team had to offer. Guard B.J. Tyson had the opportunity to help recruit him and sees the type of teammate and person Williams is on and off the court.

“Williams is a great guy. When we were recruiting him, I was his host. We come

from similar backgrounds, Shawn and I,” Tyson said. “I took him under my wing, and I showed him that he had a guy he could trust here and having him beside me on the court is an amazing thing to me. I know stuff that he has been through and it is actually fun for me to see him do the thing he loves when he had to sit out just like the way I did my first year. He is finally showing everyone that he is talented and what he is capable of doing. I’m proud of him for that.”

The next game for Williams and the ECU men’s basketball team (8-12, 2-7 AAC) will be Wednesday inside Minges Coliseum as Tulane University (12-8, 3-5 AAC) travels to Greenville.

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