



# The East Carolinian

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## Guest speaker promotes empathy

Jennifer Flippin  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Students Activities Board hosted a guest speaker last night in the Main Campus Student Center to discuss stereotyping through her presentation entitled "Stereotyping 101."

Karith Foster, a TEDx speaker, entrepreneur, author, TV personality and motivational speaker, came to ECU to give her "Stereotyping 101" presentation.

Foster said there are three reasons that people stereotype: it's human nature, we were trained by past experiences or people to think a certain way and ego because people tend to like putting people in a category.

"So you put all these things together, human nature, the fact that we've learned these things and we've got this ego, you got this giant ball of unconscious bias," Foster said.

Foster says unconscious bias affects everyone, regardless of their perception of themselves because it does show up at different parts of our lives.

Foster thinks a key to dealing with stereotypes involves being more caring. Foster thinks people can be more caring by being an active listener, having conscious empathy and responsible reactions when dealing with people who may not understand differing perspectives.

Foster thinks speaking on college campuses is important because college is a very new experience for a lot of people and a time in a person's life where they may form varying opinions.

"I think, especially on college

> FOSTER page A2



Construction continues on the Town Creek Culvert that will assist with storm water draining in the Uptown area. Construction began last spring.

## Culvert construction Water drainage system to cause road closures

Elizabeth Johnson  
TEC STAFF

Construction on the Town Creek Culvert will cause several heavily used roads in the Uptown area to shut down beginning in early March and lasting until November.

The Town Creek Culvert, that drains rain runoff from Uptown Greenville, has been under construction since last spring. An update on the project's status will be discussed at the Informational Meeting tomorrow at Sheppard Memorial Library at 3 p.m.

Civil Engineer III, Lisa Kirby, said during the meeting they will give a brief overview of the project for those who aren't familiar with it, talk about the schedule, what they've accomplished so far and talk about how the Uptown area will be impacted.

According to Kirby, the construction from Fifth Street around Reade Circle up to the Cotanche Street intersection will be discussed. Kirby said detour routes will be presented at the public meeting.

Director of Public Works, Kevin Mulligan, said the contractor has a slight alteration to the cities plans, which could potentially impact pedestrian or vehicular detours.

"So we're trying to work that out," Mulligan

said. "We'll have that worked out in time for the meeting on the 31st (of January)."

According to Kirby, there will be different phases of construction and with each phase of construction there will be a different pedestrian and vehicular detour.

Kirby said Fifth Street will close, and at one point during the project Fifth Street and Reade Circle will be closed at the same time. Kirby said eventually all of Reade Circle will close.

"And then as they open Fifth Street and close all of Reade up to Cotanche, that's a different detour and pedestrian route. All of those will be available at the meeting on Thursday," Kirby said.

Kirby said Fifth Street will close in early March. Kirby said Reade Circle is expected to close in April and reopen in November.

"According to the schedule right now, and of course that's dependent upon the availability of materials and weather, but right now they're looking at closing Fifth on the beginning of March and we believe Fifth Street will open sometime in June," Kirby said. "We think Reade will close sometime in April and remain closed until November."

Kirby said the Town Creek Culvert Project runs through the city's "urban core," and the project carries runoff from about 300 acres. The project will also include water quality improvements and a stormwater control measure that will address nitrogen

and sediment reduction.

"It carries runoff from about 300 acres which is mostly impervious and it conveys that stormwater from Ninth Street to approximately where it intersects Washington down to Reade Circle and around Reade circle under Fifth Street and around the Tar River to the Greene Street bridge," Kirby said.

According to Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth, the city has been handing out notices to businesses in the downtown area to inform them on the impact construction will have on them. Letchworth said businesses may not be able to receive deliveries due to the businesses loading zones.

Letchworth said the city plans on making sure customers can still access the businesses affected by construction and the detours are clear so people can access the restaurants and stores.

"I will tell you that as the city we've committed from the very start, plans to have signage promoting the businesses things like, ya know, 'all businesses still open during construction' because the construction can look kinda messy at times but we're gonna do everything we can to make sure we're promoting the uptown area," Letchworth said.

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



Karith Foster



Lisa Kirby



John Salter (left) and Jamie Pickett (right) sparring. Pickett is in Saturday's fight.

## MMA fight club to bring knockout to Greenville

Vincent Justice  
TEC STAFF

A knockout is coming to Greenville as a local organization will host a MMA match on Saturday, featuring several familiar faces.

The main event of the evening is a fight between Jamie Pickett and Elijah Gbollie at Next Level Fight Club, located at 1302 E. Fire Tower Rd. at 7 p.m.

LaMont Chappell, the CEO of Next Level Fight Club, said MMA stands for mixed martial arts. He said mixed martial arts is by far the fastest growing sport today.

"You're in a cage and there's so many different fighters from so many different backgrounds, which is why they call it mixed martial arts," Chappell said.

Roberito Concepcion, a

local MMA enthusiast, said the main event fighter Jamie Pickett is a Greenville local and is building a name for himself in the MMA scene.

Concepcion said when watching Pickett fight, people should be expecting a knockout given his previous fighting history.

"I'm mostly excited to see how it breaks down both before and afterwards. I know it's going to be very hectic adrenaline wise with everybody ready to fight in a cage. It's really something that puts you in a different

state of mind," Concepcion said.

Chappell said the fight will be the fifth event Next Level Fight Club has held in Greenville. He created the organization about four years ago.

Chappell said he wanted to bring the fight club back to Greenville to reignite the flame in the MMA scene here in the city.

"I can say this, Pirate fans are Pirate fans. They're loyal. If you get the word out people will show up. The difference between Raleigh is the population. However, Greenville has a more diverse group of people attending," Chappell said.

Chappell said in addition to putting on a good show, the

> FIGHT CLUB page A4

### ONLINE

» ARTS: North Carolina band creates conversational music

» SPORTS: Men's Tennis sits at 4-0 going into a pair of games at home

### SOCIAL MEDIA



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## BRIEFS

## Campus Recreation and Wellness to host class

Join Lift Like A Girl, a strength series class opened to all resistance training basic beginners. The class will focus on proper techniques for both free and machine weights.

The hour long session is today starting at 5:30 p.m. in the student recreation center, room 238. Those who wish to participate will need to complete the free registration for the course on orgsync.

## Campus Recreation and Wellness to offer trip

ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness host trampoline park day trip on Feb. 1 for Student Recreation and Wellness Center members to help students de-stress and have fun.

Trip costs five dollars and includes transportation and admission. Each member is allowed one guest per event. Sign up for trip on SRC's portal.

## Student Activities Board to craft vision boards

Today, Student Activities Board will host a MYO (make your own) Vision Board event beginning at 4:30 p.m. The event will be held in the Main Campus Student Center room 125.

All students are welcome to attend and participate in the event which will last until 6:30 p.m.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

In a previous story published by The East Carolinian, the publication incorrectly identified the owner of The Sojourner Whole Earth Provision shop as Michelle Herron. The owner's name is Heron Michelle Jenkins.

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



Emily Theys, Alex Dennis and Krista Wilhelm discuss with student leaders about the importance of community service amongst organizations on campus.

# ECU encourages service

## G.O.L.D. series promotes the importance of volunteer work

Zoë Lukas  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) hosted a G.O.L.D. series event, Serving With A Purpose, in the Main Campus Student Center last night.

The Growing Organizational Leadership Development (G.O.L.D.) series was a discussion held to inform students, student leaders and those interested in becoming involved in the different opportunities available to them at ECU and Greenville's local community.

CLCE Assistant Director, Alex Dennis, said the university aims to make students more aware of the different service opportunities available to take part in as well as to make students aware of service events to bring to their own student organizations.

"Learning about the social issues of the community, the community partner that they are volunteering with and what problems they are trying to address can also increase the student's self efficacy," Dennis said. "The idea of them feeling that they can actually make a difference."

In addition, Dennis said CLCE offers volunteering days known as Days of Service, which are available to any ECU student or ECU organization looking to interact within the community. He said students can find out more

information and sign up on its OrgSync page.

Dennis said it is important for the university to offer full days dedicated to acts of service because a majority of students are hesitant in becoming involved with student engagement events such as volunteering and community service.

Dennis said the Days of Service are an easy and preferable way for students to "dip their toe" into student engagement and getting involved.

"It is really low risk," Dennis said. "We do all the planning, they just have to show up and then get themselves to the service site we assign them to."

Coordinator for Graduate and Professional Student Engagement, Emily Theys, agreed with Dennis in saying students are scared to become involved in the community. She said because of perceived barriers such as cost, the correct person to speak to and the organization to volunteer through, as well as the imitation aspect of planning can affect the amount of students who choose to volunteer.

Theys said reaching out and learning more about the community and the needs of the community can be beneficial to students. She said students will be educated on their strengths and weaknesses, and will gain transferable skills.

"I hope they can learn the power their organization has," Theys said. "One person can make a pretty big impact but 30, 40, 50 plus (people) more can make an even bigger impact."

Senior university studies major, Mary Ndukwe, said besides attending the event to participate in the G.O.L.D. series, she wanted to

"One person can make a pretty big impact but 30, 40, 50 plus (people) more can make an even bigger impact."

-Emily Theys

learn about being more involved in community events offered through the university.

Ndukwe said she is involved in two organizations on campus and is very passionate about involvement, interacting and participating in community service.

According to Ndukwe, she plans to relay the information she learned at the event to the two organizations she is a member of so they could potentially volunteer as a unit to benefit the local community.

"I think it will help us to grow as leaders and to also be more engaged in the community," Ndukwe said. "When you know what's going on in the community it really helps you to know how you can help people."

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

# Online program helps find fellowships

Pat Polomchak  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University is continuing a series of web seminars designed to help graduate-level students take advantage of funding opportunities in the form of fellowships.

The web seminars, or webinars, come from a website called ProFellow. According to the ProFellow website, fellowships are funded opportunities for students to do work in their field. The website says these opportunities are merit-based and can lead to networking opportunities for students.

"Fellowships are competitive and provide an opportunity to do or create something with the financial support, resources and freedom that a typical job cannot offer," the website says.

The ProFellow website says fellowships are not the same as scholarships. It says while scholarships can be need-based and pay only for schooling, fellowships offer different opportunities in multiple disciplines.

"Fellowships are strictly merit

based and provide funding for a unique work placement, professional training, independent projects, research, or graduate and doctoral study," according to the website.

Kathleen Cox, associate dean of ECU Graduate School, said she first heard about ProFellow in 2018, when the administrators of the graduate school decided they wanted to do a better job of helping graduate students find funding.

Cox said ProFellow is a database of fellowships and application

information for graduate students. It also functions as a search engine.

"As a student, you would go to that website, use their search engine to find maybe the ten fellowships that work for you, and then you could choose to apply for them," Cox said.

Cox said ProFellow offers webinars on how to best land opportunities, available to the public for a fee. She said ECU

has purchased a license to stream these webinars for free to students on campus.

Cox said the website has one-on-one counseling with experts on applying to fellowships, as well as a discussion board for applicants to help one another and share experiences.

"So it's a version of social media mixed with a fellowship database," Cox said.

Cox said undergraduate students, particularly seniors, can take advantage of the resources on ProFellow as well. She said some of the opportunities on the website do not have any degree requirement for application.

Cox said if any ECU student sees a webinar they are interested in, she would want them to contact her so the student can see the webinar without paying the fee. She said the workshops ECU holds are mostly video-based.

"If it's one of the recorded webinars, we can pause it and I can say 'Students, what she just said, this is my experience as a professor,'" Cox said. "I've tried to

add a little to the conversation to the students in the room."

Vicki Johnson, founder and CEO of ProFellow, said she was inspired to create the database by her own participation in a fellowship while she was in graduate school. She said before the year 2000, she had never heard of a fellowship.

Johnson said she discovered the New York City Urban Fellows Program in the career office at Cornell University, where she got her graduate degree. She said the fellowship gave her the opportunity to work full-time in the New York City government for one year.

"I was a government major and this program offered my post-college dream job," Johnson said. "I applied for it despite being told by my senior advisor that it was probably a 'waste of time' given how competitive the opportunity is."

Johnson said while her resume

and grades were not particularly outstanding, she decided to try to succeed by being "the most-prepared applicant." She said she began orientation for the fellowship just days before the 9/11 attacks in New York City, and as a result she wound up working in the NYC Office of Emergency Management.

Johnson said she worked in emergency management policy for the next 15 years, during that time she married her husband and founded her website.

"I founded ProFellow in 2011 with my husband, Ryan Johnson, to help people find these unique opportunities," Johnson said. "At that time, they were still known primarily by word of mouth."

Cox said there is a wide variety of opportunities out there for students and this website helps show them to students. She said creating an account on ProFellow is free, and students should take advantage of this resource.

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## FOSTER continued from A1

campuses, it's just a great time, it's fertile ground, a lot of people are coming sometimes from places that are their normal which may not have been very diverse so they're being exposed to new people, new ideas, new religions, new ethnicities and for a lot of people sometimes it can be a culture shock, so the idea of creating programming that takes the stigma out of diversity and humanizes the issue," Foster said.

Foster likes to use the term 'inversity,' a word Foster originated, which is a nod to the word diversity. According to Foster, it means to

respect and acknowledge people's differences. She said this is important because it involves focusing more so on what people have in common rather than what separates them.

According to Foster, 'inversifying' involves being inclusive and introspective, understanding one's value and worth, people's connection to humanity and being able to see it in themselves to hopefully see it in others.

"Like I said using the terminology 'inversity,' I don't know why other people haven't been doing it that way, I think the more we focus on what separates us, it keeps us separate. If you focus on being inclusive and in a way that doesn't pit people against each other, doesn't victimize, doesn't vilify, then you

will have people who are more open to hearing other people's ideas or engaging," Foster said.

Alex Lane, a graduate student, came to the event because of a service learning project with the goal to learn more about multicultural things.

"Some people just don't understand, so not reacting so quickly as to get mad more kind of teaching them a lesson so they can have a better experience next time when dealing with the same thing," Lane said.

Kaitlin Brown, SAB initiatives chair, serves

on the executive board for student activities representing the initiatives committee and helped bring Foster to ECU.

Brown saw Foster give a presentation at NACA (National Association for Campus Activities), and liked her message and presentation. Brown said she thought Foster would be a good fit to speak at ECU.

"I hope that students are able to better understand the people that they are around in their community and have a better idea of what stereotypes mean as well as how to understand different diversities (and) how to overcome differences in peers," Brown said.

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Kathleen Cox



Alex Dennis



Vicki Johnson



Kaitlin Brown

## OUR VIEW

# Florence help still needed

Sigma Gamma Rho and Books for Better Outlooks started a collaborative effort on Monday to collect books to rebuild libraries surrounding the Wilmington, North Carolina area that sustained serious damage after Hurricane Florence.

This book drive, which will run through March 22, has already collected more than 200 books. Books for Better Outlooks is a 501c4 non-profit that collects gently used books and redistributes those books to anyone in need.

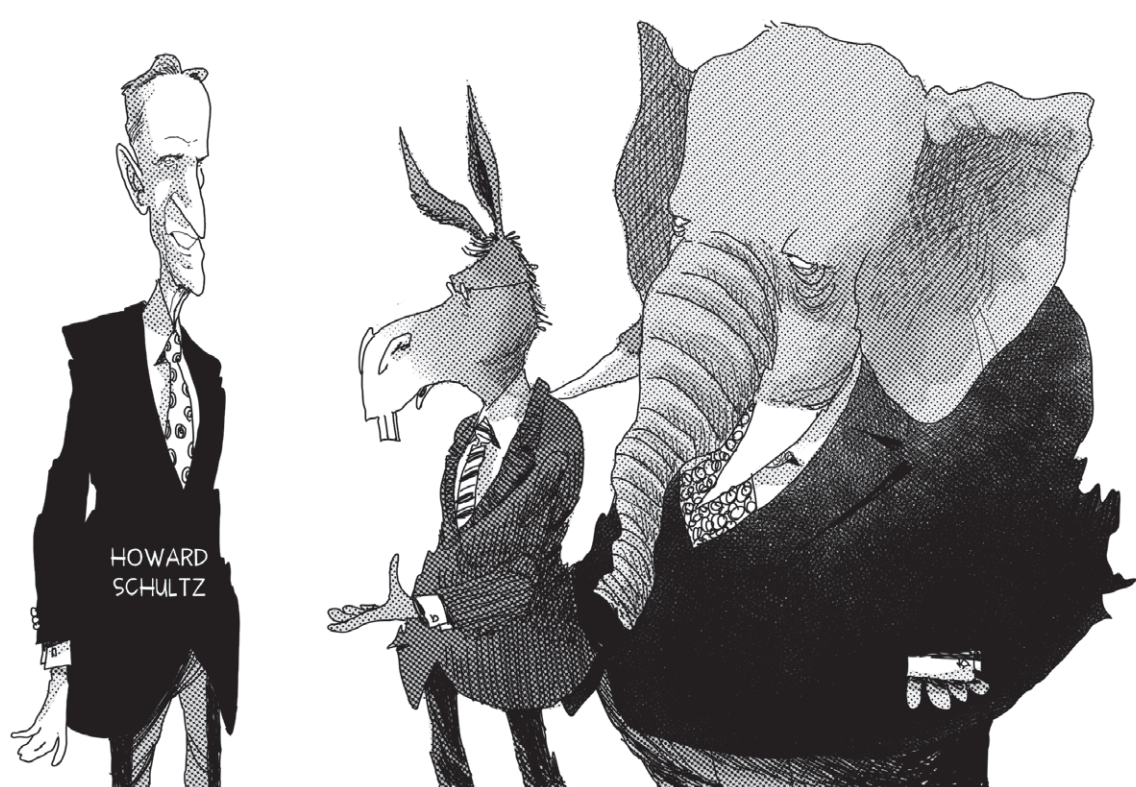
In less than a year, Books for Better Outlooks has collected almost 10,000 books and provided those books to more than 25 different organizations in North Carolina. The goal of the current drive is to reach more than 300 books donated, according to sophomore communication major, Alyssa Cadavid, who the began ECU's Books for Better Outlooks Chapter in Greenville.

With more than 200 collected already, they are less than 100 books away from reaching their goal.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe those who are able should help contribute what they can toward the victims of Hurricane Florence, whether it be donating books to Books for Better Outlooks, or donating their time or money to help in the reconstruction efforts in the cities affected most by the hurricane.

Even though Hurricane Florence took place in September, many cities such as Wilmington are still feeling the effects. Any help that can be given to our fellow residents of North Carolina should be given if possible, in efforts to help others in the state thrive.

SHENEMAN TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



"THE GUY WHO INVENTED THE NINE DOLLAR COFFEE WOULD LIKE TO LECTURE US ABOUT FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY."

# ECU needs some PR

## University has public image problems



**Matt Prensky**  
TEC STAFF

### Don't Mind Matt

When I was a child my mother would use the phrase 'You're digging yourself a hole' every time I'd say or do something that was regrettable. If I kept talking or doing that

action, she'd say I was still digging.

What my mother meant by the phrase was that I was doing something that wasn't going to end well for myself and that I should cut it out. I extended that same advice to East Carolina University's administration nine months ago. Specifically, think before you act and by think I mean consider how your decisions will look.

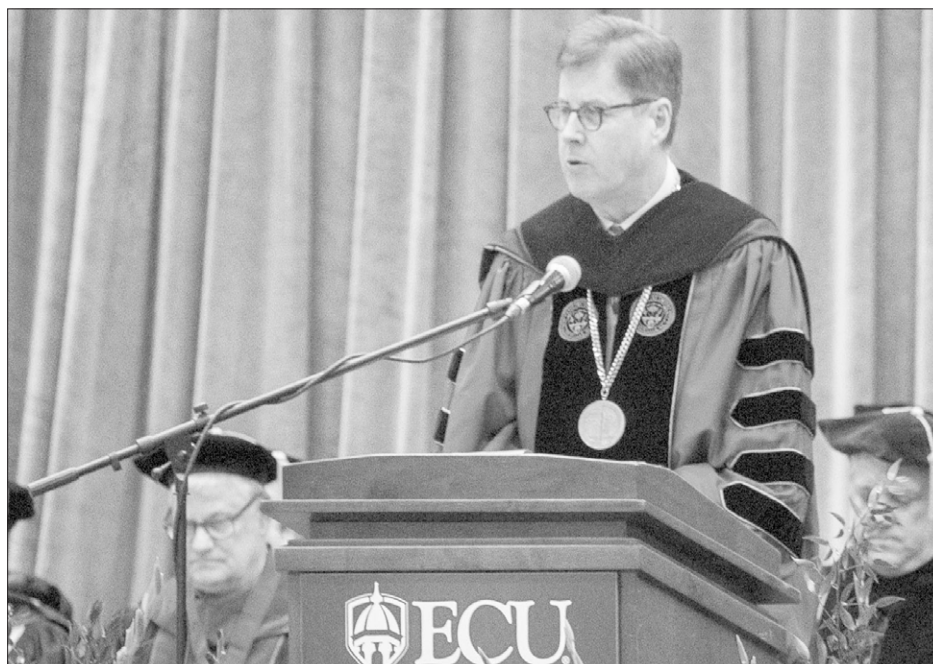
After nine months it seems as though ECU may not have changed its course. Instead, it seems to be doubling down. Because of that, I'm here to tell ECU or whomever is in charge at this point that you're digging a whole. Stop digging.

ECU has a lack of understanding about public relations. Public relations is a valuable tool that allows an organization to frame an issue. It's an entire profession that ECU trains its students to go into, yet its leaders are clueless about it.

There have been a number of times during this academic year where I've been left shaking my head, confused by what ECU decided to do and the lack of an explanation given by officials. Just to list a few examples: the various skirmishes with the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the handling of Scottie Montgomery's separation, the management of the new student center, the athletic department debt and many other situations.

ECU could have avoided some of the backlash and controversy with each of these situations if it had been more transparent by explaining its decision and worked to address the concerns the community had.

Yet, ECU ignored its community's concerns and kept moving as if nothing was wrong. Can you blame Pirate Nation for being upset at its leaders? To the average Pirate fan,



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton speaks at winter commencement last month.

ECU has handled several controversies without care or any sort of thought for how people will consider their choices.

Their concerns are going unaddressed and yet ECU is expecting them to fill a stadium, donate to the university and blindly believe what they are told.

It takes credibility for leaders to make decisions and not feel the need to explain their choices. When a leader is trusted, their followers will willingly follow. However, when a leader isn't trusted, followers will question their judgement, especially on controversial decisions.

ECU leadership, in particular Chancellor Cecil Staton, has lacked credibility for the past three years. With each year and controversy, it seems as though he has less ground to stand on.

The lack of thought behind these decisions and the carelessness ECU has for its optics frustrates me. It frustrates me because there are so many better ways to handle these tough decisions, yet ECU continuously chooses the harder route.

Optics matters. Students don't have to come, parents don't have to send their

children here and alumni don't have give money to ECU. However, for the survival of ECU it's important that each of these groups continue to support this university.

I have two pieces of advice for ECU's leadership. First, public relations matters. Understanding the optics of your decisions and the weight they carry is crucial to success.

Second, ECU's leadership should work with the community to restore credibility. Right now ECU's chancellor is a man with the authority to rule over ECU, but doesn't have the respect to govern effectively.

To avoid more controversies, it's in the best interest of ECU, its community and leadership if Staton either wises up to the importance of public relations or improves his credibility with the community that makes his job possible.

ECU and Staton are trying to burn a candle at both ends and the longevity of that plan won't last. For their sake along with the rest of Pirate Nation, changes to ECU's public relations strategy should be made.

Prensky is a senior majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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# Comm majors deserve respect



**Chase Carroll**  
TEC STAFF

### Chase'n the Truth

If I had a nickel for every time I heard a joke about someone being a communication major, or the "easy major," I'd probably have a couple dollars. I'm not positive on that though,

because after all, I'm just a communication major, and I'm not smart enough to add all those numbers together.

In all seriousness though, the reputation communication majors get on campus here at East Carolina University is somewhat unfair to the majority of the students in the School of Comm who work as hard, or sometimes even harder than other students on campus. I understand why we get the reputation we do. Very little math and science is required in order to graduate. While we may not have to take those courses that are deemed "harder"

than others, communication majors often have a lot of deadlines on big papers and readings that those majors may not excel at.

I'm not looking to downplay other majors here at ECU. I'm just looking for respect to those of us who are passionate about journalism, public relations, interpersonal/organizational communication and media studies, the four different areas of concentration in the School of Communication. With nearly 1,000 students in the School of Communication at ECU, it makes up a decent amount of the students here on campus.

While we may not learn about numbers, formulas or equations, we learn important and difficult everyday skills that are important to every person's life. Yes, everyone is impacted by communication majors every day, as long as you pay attention to the news. Without these journalists learning the vital information in class, you would be left in the dark about what is going on, not only here on campus at ECU, but your everyday world news.

Without much of a doubt, most people are thankful for the hard work many journalists go through in order to break many of the important stories that impact their everyday lives.

Why is this same respect not given to us when we are students, learning to become these important journalists? Journalism in general is expanding more and more by the year, as you are expected to learn multiple means of media if you want to make it in the industry.

The next time you think to judge a communication major, stop and think just how important the industry is, and try to respect the goals these people are striving to reach, rather than downplaying the amount of work these majors actually put in to reach them.

Carroll is a senior majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## 72 PLUS MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

### TODAY

**Melange**  
Wright Auditorium  
8 p.m.

**Wine Tasting**  
Jeffersons  
5:30 p.m.

### TOMORROW

**Resurrection**  
Journey Tribute Band  
The State Theatre  
8 p.m.

**Holden Dixon**  
Blackboard Coffee  
Roasters  
7 p.m.

**Loving This Art Walk**  
Schroko's Hair Studio  
5 p.m.

**TGIF Pottery**  
The Painted Peacock  
6 p.m.

**Psylo Joe**  
Christy's EuroPub  
10 p.m.

### SATURDAY

**Keller Williams**  
The State Theatre  
8 p.m.

**Don Sauls**  
Uptown Brewing  
Company  
8 p.m.

**Games Meet Art**  
Greenville Art Museum  
1 p.m.

### SUNDAY

**Unnatural Resources**  
Fair  
Greenville Convention  
Center  
Noon

# The music of connection

## Greenville couple are bandmates, soulmates

**Katie Spade**  
TEC STAFF

A Greenville couple creates music to connect not just as bandmates, but soulmates too.

Sarah Fuller and Stephen Ottinger met as members of a church group. Now, they are happily engaged and making music as the duo, Sometimes Lions.

Fuller works part-time as a preschool teacher, but both she and Ottinger book regular gigs as musicians. While Fuller said she has

sang her entire life, mostly in church, she has never been a part of a set musical group before. Ottinger, on the other hand, said he grew up in a musical family. His father, an elementary school music teacher, was in a band and wrote songs.

Sometimes Lions will perform at Pitt Street Brewing Company, located at 630 S. Pitt St., on Saturday at 8 p.m. The performance is free.

Ottinger said the biggest musical influences for Sometimes Lions include the bands need to breathe and Johnnyswim. "I love the way Johnnyswim creates their harmonies," Ottinger said.

The duo describes their music as "more of a soft rock or alternative vibe." Fuller said the duo is not tied down to any one genre and they do not have any restrictions as to what they want to write about.

"We write about love and things that matter to us," Fuller said.

Fuller is a Greenville native, while Ottinger has lived in Greenville for two years after living in Charlotte. They both attend Covenant Church and

their worship leader Wes Edwards leads the praise bands. Edwards, who has also spent a majority of his life being musically involved, said he enjoys the easy-going feel of the duo's music.

"They have a great acoustic singer-songwriter feel," Edwards said. "It's very good on the ears, they don't need effects (to sound good)."

Outside of their musical endeavors, Fuller and Ottinger make sure to manage time for each other as a couple.

"It's been a process of growing...you have to make time for both (music and personal life) to be healthy," Ottinger said.

Edwards said he also noticed Fuller and Ottinger growing in their relationship with each other.

"It's pretty amazing that Stephen and Sarah found each other as a couple," Edwards said. "Stephen is a good guy and I think they're good for each other."

Fuller and Ottinger want to encourage people with a passion for music. Even when it can be difficult to make a name for yourself, the duo said that it is worth the hard work put into it.

"If you have a dream to write and play music, don't stop doing

it just because you don't make it to the top like a big name," Ottinger said. "It's about the love of music and the love of spreading it."

Fuller added that everyone has something to say, it's just a matter of how you spread it.

For more information about their performance Saturday, visit the Facebook event page. Sometimes Lions has pages for their music on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube.



From left: Greenville's Stephen Ottinger and Sarah Fuller are an engaged couple who perform as the band Sometimes Lion. The two met at a local church.

# Uptown to host ArtWalk

**Giana Williams**  
TEC STAFF

Uptown Greenville is inviting the community to dive into its culture and see a wide array of art galleries and businesses open offering food, art and sales at the First Friday ArtWalk of the new school year.

The First Friday ArtWalk is an event held on every first Friday of the month from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. that kicked off in 2001. Art galleries throughout Uptown Greenville showcase new exhibits for the public to view or buy art and sometimes offers refreshments as well, according to Meredith Hawke, Uptown Greenville's events and branding director.



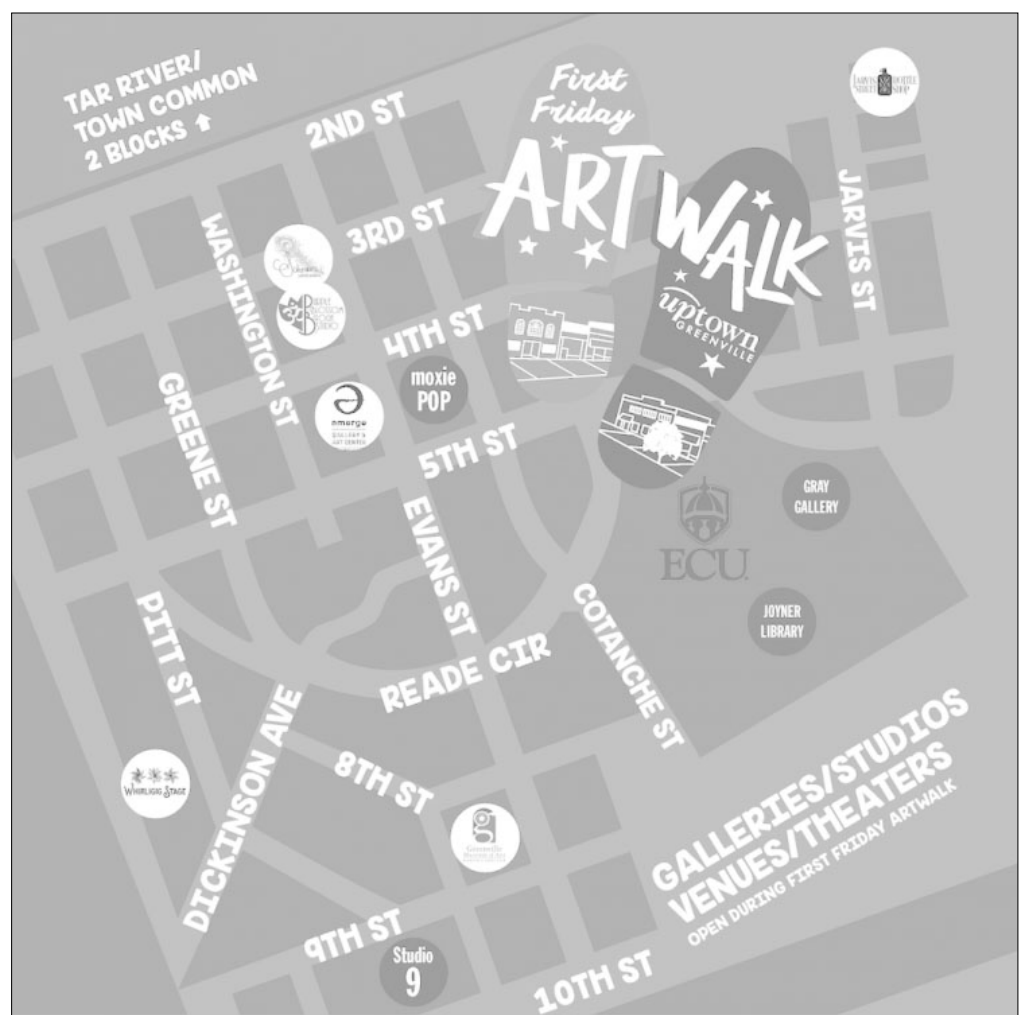
**Meredith Hawke**

Uptown Greenville is able to host this event due to the recent launch of a micro-grant program called POPS: Program Our Public Spaces. This is an opportunity for community members to showcase their talent by packing the streets during the first Friday of the month, according to Hawke.

"But it's not just art," Hawke said. "We invite the community to enjoy Uptown's eclectic mix of restaurants and shops along your stroll in the heart of Greenville."

“**But it's not just art. We invite the community to enjoy Uptown's eclectic mix of restaurants and shops along your stroll in the heart of Greenville.**

*-Meredith Hawke*



A map of the participating businesses of First Friday ArtWalk. The ArtWalk is in Uptown Greenville.

Sarah Schroko, owner of Schroko's Hair Studio, said this is her business' third year participating in the ArtWalk. She said the vibes at the event are neat and that every business and gallery showcase its work differently.

"Our business usually we have had DJs, wine and different pieces of art if we have our feature artists there where they can explain art, sell it and bring in a lot of extra art to look at," Schroko said.

Jessica McNally, owner of Purple Blossom Yoga Studio, said it is important for Uptown businesses to participate in the ArtWalk to build the community. Many visitors of different locations explore other businesses, and this allows business owners to get to

know each other and expand their networks.

"The businesses during the ArtWalk should be supported as we are all coming together and putting on different events and shows for the public to enjoy, shop and have a good time," McNally said.

The First Friday ArtWalk will be on Friday at 5 p.m. throughout Uptown Greenville, and every first Friday of each month. For more information, visit the First Friday ArtWalk Facebook page or contact Uptown Greenville at 252-561-8400.

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

## FIGHT CLUB

continued from A1

fighters are hoping they can, in turn get their name out there and become professional fighters in the Ultimate Fighting Club (UFC). He said Allen Crowder, who will be attending the match as well, is a great example of someone who found success in their career in Greenville.

Crowder, a former Pirate turn UFC fighter, said he enjoyed his time at East Carolina University and had gotten a full



**Allen Crowder**

ride scholarship to play football in 2008.

Crowder said he decided he wasn't going to pursue football anymore and chose to work at a nightclub. He said in doing this he realized his new passion was instead MMA and fighting rather than football.

"I met a guy named Rodrigo," Crowder said. "He said 'Hey man if you fight for

me, you can train here for free.' I started training there and I got my first fight about a month later. It just worked out really well."

Crowder said he recalled fighting at Next Level Fight Club three or four times. He said during his time at the fight club, he was able to develop a good following of people there.

"I had a lot of people come and support me. I sold \$6,000 to \$10,000 worth of tickets for them, I think that's why they liked me so much. I really

enjoyed it, fighting there... got me to where I am today," Crowder said.

General admission to the fight starts at \$35, however, those wanting a better view can purchase ring side seats starting at \$55. Tickets can be bought on Next Level Fight Club's website. More information about Next Level Fight Club can be found on their Facebook page.

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Junior Bria Stith is ready to compete for ECU at Virginia Tech University this weekend. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

## Track ready for multiple meets

Jess Sabin  
TEC STAFF

Divide and conquer. That is what the East Carolina University men and women's track and field teams plan to do this weekend as some members will go compete at the Doc Hale Elite meet, while the rest of the teams are going to compete in the JDL Fast Track meet.

The Doc Hale Elite meet will take place in Blacksburg, Virginia and will be hosted by Virginia Tech University and the JDL fast track will take place in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Coach Josey Weaver will take the 3k, 5k and the 1000 meter runners (both men and women) to the JDL meet. The rest of the runners, throwers, jumpers and vaulters will compete at Virginia Tech.

"I don't believe the split of the team will impact anyone's performances," senior Grace Sullivan said. "Each group is competing at meets that give those athletes the best source of competition to produce great performances."

ECU will be coming into these meets off some very strong performances from its last meet at the Penn State National Open

where the Pirates had three event wins and two school records broken. They hope to continue and improve on this success in the upcoming meets.

However, the distance runners going to the JDL fast track will face a challenge from the track itself. The track at the JDL meet will be a flat 200 meter track where the Pirates are used to running on 200 meter board bank tracks with a big curve.

"Running is running, there are a few things that coach Weaver has worked on with the young men and young women," head coach Curt Kraft said. "Their running form and their arm carries, and how they keep their centrifugal force to the inside of the track opposed to making sure it doesn't go to the outside of the track."

With this preparation, the team is feeling confident it can compete with any of the teams that it will face at either meet this weekend. After two school records were broken during their last meet, the Pirates have seen first hand that their dedication and hard work is paying off as it encourages them moving forward.

"There aren't any teams in

particular that intimidate us," senior Nick Ciaccia said. "We know we will be seeing great competition all around and we are excited to make a name for ECU amongst them."

ECU is now halfway through the indoor track season and these will be two of the last three meets before they compete in the American Athletic Conference Championships. With the goal of taking the American Athletic Conference (AAC) crown, ECU will need to use these meets to bring out its best.

"Our mindset going into this weekend is the same as it's been since the preseason, to work extremely hard, leave everything on the track, and do it all as a family," sophomore Brooke Stith said.



Nick Ciaccia

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## Pirates hope for Green Wave win

Staff Report

The East Carolina University men's basketball team will look to end its five game losing slump as it will host Tulane University tonight at 7 in Mingos Coliseum.

The Pirates (8-11, 1-6 AAC) will face the Green Wave (4-15, 0-7 AAC) who are on a losing streak of its own, having lost its last nine matchups, including all seven of its matchups within the American Athletic Conference.

While the Green Wave do not boast an impressive record or seem to have much momentum, they do have an intriguing scoring combo of sophomore guard Caleb Daniels and junior forward Semir Sehic who the Pirates will have to keep an eye on and prepare for.

The ECU offense has struggled during conference play putting up points, especially during its five game losing streak where it has averaged 63.6 points while giving up 82 points in the past five contests.

The Pirates will look to star freshman forward Jayden Gardner to keep up with the Green Wave, as Gardner leads the

team in scoring and rebounding this year, averaging 18.9 points and 9.4 rebounds per game. Coach Dooley will look to Gardner and junior forward Seth LeDay who is averaging 11.4 points and 6.7 rebounds to keep Sehic in check tonight at the rim.

Sophomore Shawn Williams will head up the Pirates backcourt and is averaging 11.9 points per game. Williams is making 2.5 threes per game, but is shooting the three ball at 31.5 percent so far this season.

The Pirates have to figure out how to be consistent on both sides of the ball in order to snap this losing streak that has gone on since Jan. 10. They will have the opportunity to right the ship against the struggling Green Wave in front of their home crowd at 7 p.m.

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Jayden Gardner



Jon Gilbert announced on Wednesday that William & Mary University will complete its 2019 schedule. COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

## Football schedule filled with W&M

Samantha Walsh  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Director of Athletics, Jon Gilbert, announced on Wednesday that a home game against University of William & Mary has been added to complete the 2019 non-conference football schedule.

After ECU canceled its road trip to Blacksburg, Virginia to play the Virginia Tech Hokies on Sept. 15 after Hurricane Florence ran through the east, Tech announced in December they were canceling three future games in Greenville with ECU, including the already scheduled games for 2019, 2023 and 2025. ECU scheduled the Tribe in the replacement of Tech for this upcoming season.

The game is set to be played Sept. 21 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium where the Pirates will take on the Tribe for the 18th time overall. They faced each other annually for 13-straight seasons from 1971 to 1983.

"One of our top priorities over the past month has been to finalize our 2019 schedule and we accomplished that (yesterday) by adding a sixth home game with William & Mary," Gilbert said according to a press release. "We had talks with several FCS and FBS schools over the past month about scheduling a game. We began discussions with William & Mary's administration earlier this month about partnering together and we are excited to have the Tribe visit Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium this September."

Both programs feature first year head coaches, Mike London of the Tribe who was hired on Nov. 19, and Mike Houston of the Pirates since Dec. 3. The last time the Tribe and Pirates matched up was Sept. 22, 2001

in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium where the Pirates defeated the Tribe 38-23.

This was the fifth-largest crowd in ECU history with 40,179 fans in attendance with an overall record of 12-4-1 against William & Mary.

The Pirates new head coach, Houston, led the James Madison University Dukes football program to a 37-6 record, three-straight Football Championship Subdivision playoff appearances, two title game showings and the 2016 national championship. During Houston's tenure with JMU in the Colonial Athletic Association, he owned a 3-0 all-time mark against William & Mary.

"We hope to receive our conference dates in the near future and then we will be able to release the full schedule with season tickets going on sale Feb. 20. This is an exciting time for Pirate Football and I know Coach Houston, our staff and players can't wait to get started with spring practice," Gilbert said.

As the full fall schedule is still to be announced, Pirate nation is looking forward to going against those teams that have already been announced. This includes North Carolina State University on Aug. 31 in Raleigh, North Carolina, Gardner-Webb University in Dowdy-Ficklen stadium on Sept. 7 and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia on Sept. 28.

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