



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Thursday, 10.10.19

VOLUME 94, ISSUE 13



CeCe Dillard, a senior sports studies major, traveled abroad to New Zealand in 2019 through a program offered by the university.

## Travel options explored

### Study abroad fair to discuss ECU opportunities

**Madison Barnhill**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**Ahren Rau**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's study abroad program will be holding its study abroad fair today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Main Campus Student Center Lawn.

The fair will be focused around ECU's offered summer abroad programs and the ways students can become involved in them. Faculty who have previously led study abroad trips and students that have actually studied abroad will be at the fair to answer questions about scholarships, financial aid and the trips they lead, said Director of International Initiatives Megan Perry.

"Getting to know the students in a different context and out of everyone's comfort zone is a very different experience from a professor's point of view," Perry said.

Perry facilitates the study abroad program and looks over trip requests. She additionally does field research in Jordan for her classes.

Perry said she enjoys introducing her students to the culture and uncovering the burials of people who died thousands of years ago on her trips. She said, studying this culture from thousands of years ago tells so

much about the people when you see how they're buried and the positions in which they lay.

Whitney Morris, the Coordinator of Faculty-Led Study Abroad, a student majoring in a foreign language would be adopted into a host family that would take care of you for the semester so you are able to speak the language everyday helping to improve your fluency.

When studying abroad there are several programs in over 50 countries to choose from offered through ECU. 30 of these countries are faculty-led and are often discipline-specific, said Morris.

"The biggest barrier is financing study abroad. The fact that study abroad is expensive can be true but is also a myth that we'd like to break because students can use financial aid for study abroad and there are scholarships available and our Office of Global Affairs has the Thomas Rivers scholarship," Morris said.

The Thomas Rivers scholarship application is due on Sunday. Over the past two academic years the scholarship has given out an esti-

mated \$200,000 to students wanting to study abroad, Morris said. She said studies have shown study abroad programs help students get a job after graduating, allows them a higher chance at getting into the graduate school of their choice, and also teaches adaptability in new situations.

Morris said in an emailed statement to The East Carolinian statistics from study.abroad.ucmerced.edu, "The statistics show that upon graduation 90% of students that studied abroad landed a job within 6 months whereas only 49% of graduates that didn't study abroad got a job."

Morris said 100% of study abroad students found their GPA to increase or double leading to a higher graduation rate. Studies prove in favor of studying abroad, she said.

"Studying abroad changed my perspective on life. It takes you out of your comfort zone and places you in a culture completely different than your own. But that was kind of the beauty of it you know. It like enabled me to learn in ways I never have before, and like broadened my global understanding of another culture outside of my own," Haleigh



Whitney Morris

> **ABROAD** page A2

## Culvert leads to downtown road closures

**Elizabeth Johnson**  
TEC STAFF

**Margaret McCollum**  
TEC STAFF



Road closures for the next few months in the newest phase of the Town Creek Culvert construction project are affecting local businesses and resulting in traffic confusion in Uptown Greenville.

Director of Public Works, Kevin Mulligan, said Reade Circle and Cotanche Street will be closed for four months due to construction on the Town Creek Culvert.

The city of Greenville is working to open the pedestrian detour between Chico's and the West End of East Carolina University's main campus.

"They're looking to see what we can do to accelerate that so that part may only be a couple months and we're

looking to open up that walkway where the speed humps are right now, that crosswalk, certainly sooner than the four months I just talked about," Mulligan said.

Construction is currently moving south along Reade Circle and Cotanche Street and was closed on Monday. The section from the Chico's parking lot on Reade Street to the south of Fifth Street to the end of Cotanche Street will remain closed for four months.

After the end of January 2020, construction will move to the intersection of Evans Street. The Town Creek Culvert project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2020.

Yvonne Perry, operations manager at University Book Exchange (U.B.E.), said she believes their business may be affected slightly due to customers not being able to walk from dorms at West End on East Carolina University's campus to U.B.E.

Perry said students who live at West End, which is located directly in front of the construction area, will now have more difficulty accessing the Uptown area due to the closure of Reade Circle and Cotanche Street.

"That (road closures) I do think especially will affect the traffic that normally would walk to us," Perry said.

Perry said the amount of pedestrian traffic the store experiences varies depending on the seasons, but around this time of year, she said she believes traffic to the store is about 25% pedestrian and 75% by vehicle.

The best way to access U.B.E. and others around them, according to Perry, is by taking Evans Street to Fifth Street and accessing Cotanche Street from there.

"Evans Street is our lifeline right now," Perry said.

Perry said there is one barricade located in the road at Cotanche Street and Fifth Street but cars are still able to come down the street. She said this is causing confusion among drivers who were used to being able to drive down Cotanche Street the past month.



Kevin Mulligan

> **CULVERT** page A2

## Herrin bolsters future offense

**Daniel Shepard**  
TEC STAFF

On Tuesday, while the East Carolina University (3-3, 0-2 AAC) football team enjoyed a much needed week off from game action, they received a bit of welcoming news. Senior offensive lineman Cortez Herrin was granted a medical hardship waiver by the American Athletic Conference, tacking another year of eligibility onto his collegiate career.

After appearing in the Pirates' first game of the season back in 2016, Herrin was sidelined for the remainder of the campaign with an injury. Under NCAA's redshirt rule, one that has now been changed, Herrin would have lost a year of eligibility despite his limited action during his freshman season. With his waiver now approved, however, Herrin will

> **HERRIN** page A4

## Spazz to host exclusive concert

**Sarah Hooper**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Event planning and venue booking company Spazz Presents will host a session of its Underground Series: The GRK Sessions on Saturday at 7 p.m. with eight artists that will perform in a private location, available by contacting Spazz Presents.

Solo artist Drunkle Stiltskin, also known as Braxton Sawyer, will perform at the event. His music set will consist of experimental noise and sub genre of EDM called "Happy Hardcore," which reaches levels of 140-170 BPM.

Sawyer said that the GRK series will be up to the public to interpret and the goal is to provide a means of self expression.

"GRK is kind of an elusive thing, we let it mean what people want it to mean," Sawyer said. "'Get Ready Kasually' is one meaning I choose to define it, we're all about self-expression and making our events what you want them to be."

Sawyer has worked with Spazz Presents before on many occasions and mentioned that it is a great opportunity for any budding artist. Mollie Davis, a member of experimental post punk rock band Voltage Divider, also has experience working with Spazz Presents and said that it has been a great opportunity for her group.

"Working with Spazz Presents is a



CONTRIBUTED BY STONEY SILLS

> **GRK** page A6 **New Aquarian's Mark Griffin plays guitar.**

### ONLINE

» **NEWS: Monday's City Council workshop discusses arts district**

» **Check out our website for stories, photo galleries and more**

### SOCIAL MEDIA

@theeastcarolinian

Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian

@TEC\_Newspaper

**BRIEFS**

**Greenway meet-up organized by CRW**

Campus Recreation and Wellness will have a Greenway Meet-Up tonight at 6. The meeting will take place at the bottom of College Hill. Participants will walk 5 miles along the Greenway and are encouraged to bring a friend and water.

**Astronomy night will take place this evening**

Tomorrow night at 8, Campus Recreation and Wellness is having an Astronomy Night at the Howell Science Complex. Students will learn about constellations and celestial bodies. In order to participate, students have to go to <https://crwregistration.ecu.edu>.

**Dowdy's annual sidewalk sale returns indoors**

Today from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dowdy Student Stores will have a sidewalk sale in its lower level.

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

**Clarifications**

In the Oct. 1 edition of The East Carolinian we mistakenly said the ECU administration placed Interim Chancellor Gerlach on administrative leave when it was actually the UNC Board of Governors.

In an article written for The East Carolinian on Sept. 30, a quote was wrongly attributed to Shaun Simon when it should have been attributed to Aleshia Hunt.

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Jenna Price at [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Architect comes to ECU

## Zena Howard to discuss Urban Design as Urban Healing

**Elizabeth Johnson**  
TEC STAFF

The architect who designed The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture along with Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza will be coming to campus to talk about Urban Design as Urban Healing.

Tonight at 6, Zena Howard will give a talk on Urban Design as Urban Healing in the Main Campus Student Center Ballroom C, Heather White, assistant director for Assessment and Engagement at Joyner Library, said.

The opening reception of "For All the World to See," a traveling civil rights exhibit currently located in the Faulkner Gallery, was rescheduled due to Hurricane Dorian.

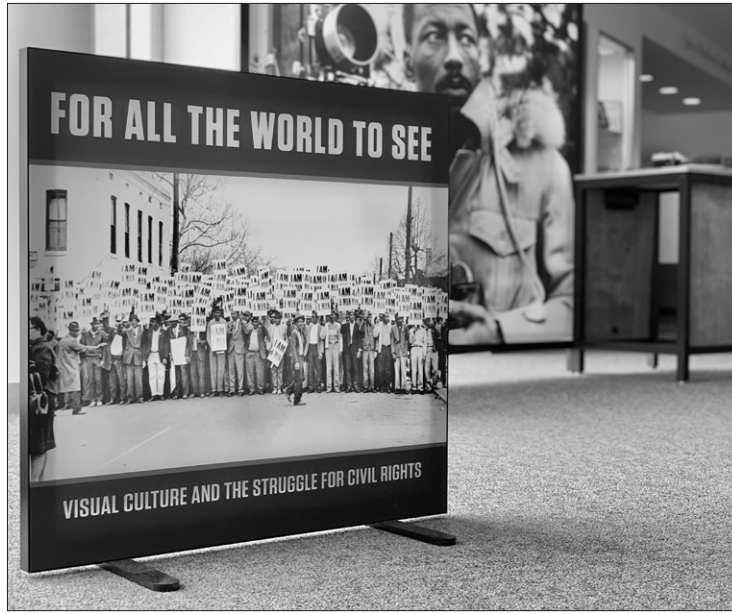
The reception will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. today in the Faulkner Gallery prior to Zena Howard's talk. Howard will be the special guest which will give attendees the opportunity to talk to her, White said. White said whenever a special guest is brought to campus it is important to give students the opportunity to speak with them.

"We're really excited, she's going to be talking about Urban Design as Urban Healing and so her work with Perkins and Will and her career as an architect is really remarkable beyond just the design, she really just works with the community to make sure their voices are heard and what the final design of whatever architecture being produced, really reflects that," White said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Hank Klibanoff will be coming to campus on Monday



**Heather White**



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**Zena Howard is expected to attend the For All The World To See exhibit.**

in the Faulkner Gallery as a part of the For All the World to See exhibit. He will come to campus to talk about the perspective he had covering the race beat and how he now works investigating cold cases from the civil rights era.

White said Howard will talk about projects she has worked on, designing the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and then discuss the work she's done in Greenville.

Zena Howard attended a Sycamore Hill Advisory Group (SHAG) meeting where she was able to meet members of the former Downtown Community which is now home to Town Common, White said. Howard became apart of the project in 2017, she said.

"She came and talked to the group and really listened to them and looked at the documentation that had happened and what grew out of that is what became this really robust project that reflected I think truly what they wanted to share," White said.

White said students having the

opportunity to meet the architect of Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza, Zena Howard, and then see it being built downtown will give them a "connection" to the project.

Toya Jacobs, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager for ECU's Office for Equity and Diversity (OED), said Howard has been featured in publications such as Forbes and Essence. Howard is a principal at the architecture firm Perkins and Will in Durham, Jacobs said. Howard has designed the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza in Greenville, she said.

**Toya Jacobs**

Howard has worked on projects with environmentally sensitive exhibit areas, environmentally and spatially sensitive spaces for Autistic children and historically significant buildings, Jacobs said.

Howard's visit is a collabora-

tion between the Office of Equity and Diversity along with Joyner Library, Jacobs said. Howard will talk specifically about Sycamore Hill Gateway plaza which is a connection.

"We're connecting her to our faculty, staff and students through the Office of Equity and Diversity and Joyner Library to come and talk about Urban Design as Urban Healing, specifically the Sycamore Hill Gateway Plaza is a connection from our past to our future, trying to bring some of that urban healing to the city of Greenville," Jacobs said.

Jacobs said the OED wanted to bring a diversity speaker who has been successful to "inspire and motivate" students. She said she hopes this event will give students the opportunity to see what they may do in their future careers and that their work can be bigger than just their paychecks.

According to Zena Howard's biography on Perkins and Will website, Howard developed cultural awareness from growing up in many communities across the country.

"Her recognition that the built environment significantly impacts the human experience informs her continued exploration of design experiences that nurture positive change," Howard's biography said.

Howard leads projects that navigate issues of social equity and justice along with honoring history and restoring cultural connections, Howard's biography said.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).



**Zena Howard**

**ABROAD** continued from A1

Dalton, a senior majoring in Hispanic studies education said.

Dalton said she chose to study abroad in Spain to strengthen her Spanish speaking skills and connection with the culture. She said the group she was with throughout the program took classes Monday through Friday, but the program also included weekend trips to all of Andalusia. She said each weekend they would visit another city and some of those cities included: Seville, Málaga, Córdoba and Cádiz.



**Haleigh Dalton**

Dalton said a lot of people shy away from studying abroad with high tuition

prices. However, she said ECU encourages studying abroad and has scholarship opportunities and financial aid available.

Dalton said she went to Granada, Spain during one of the summer abroad programs. She stayed with a host mom during her stay and said she her experience with her was life-changing. She felt welcomed and loved by her host mom who incorporated her into her family and some nights took her to her Abuela's for dinner.

"This was one of the things I was most worried about, as living with a complete stranger is not very settling. But I am so glad I chose to stay with a host mom rather than the dorms, it made the connection to the culture so much more apparent and my host mom taught me lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life," Dalton said.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).



ROD MCCLURE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**Three ECU students stand in front of mountains in New Zealand during their ECU study abroad trip.**



KACEY COURTNEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**The Town Creek Culvert Project moved to its next phase, leaving portions of Cotanche Street and Reade Circle closed in the downtown Greenville area. The closures are expected to last four months.**

**CULVERT** continued from A1

Perry said the confusion is apparent because drivers are now using U.B.E. and Chico's parking lot to turn around in so drivers do not run into the construction at Reade Circle.

"I've watched some of the traffic, and they are so confused," Perry said. "I feel that's the people who are trying to find their way around Uptown Greenville right now."

Perry said, although the closure is projected to last three to four months, she hopes people will continue to be patient and businesses will not be affected too drastically. She said

U.B.E. understands this construction is for the improvement of Greenville.

Greer Jones, bartender at Club 519, said the sidewalk closures might be an inconvenience for pedestrian traffic in the future for their business, as well.

"A lot of our business is people walking here on foot, so the sidewalks around us being closed might end up hindering our business," Jones said.

Jones said she hopes the walkway closures will open sooner than the projected dates to help



**Greer Jones**

people access the Uptown area, but in the event the closures do last for three to four months, she believes residents will continue to find ways to walk and drive to the area.

A post on the City of Greenville's website said that Cotanche Street at Reade Circle was expected to close on Monday, Oct. 7.

The detour for Cotanche and will be on to East Tenth Street, Evans Street and East Fifth Street, the post said.

This writer can be contacted at [news@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:news@theeastcarolinian.com).

## OUR VIEW

# Awareness on vaping is appreciated

Vaping has been a hot topic in the news recently due to the rise of stories of vape users developing lung diseases and even a few deaths. President Trump proposed a ban on some vaping products earlier in September, but it is currently stalled.

With the initial release to the United States in 2007, vaping products began flooding the market. The products began to attract a larger crowd, as traditional cigarette smokers believed it was safer and non-smokers were attracted to the products as well.

In 2017, Juul was released to the United States. With its pods available in various flavors such as mango, they quickly became one of the biggest trends on the market. However, the dangers of these products weren't widely known until the following years. As of June of this year, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported at least eight deaths and approximately 530 lung illnesses related to vaping.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, appreciate the recent media coverage of the dangers of vape and e-cigarette smoking as many students at ECU use these products and could potentially be at risk of developing these diseases. However, we believe that a ban on only certain vape products as opposed to all products, will prove to be ineffective in the efforts to prevent vape illnesses and deaths.

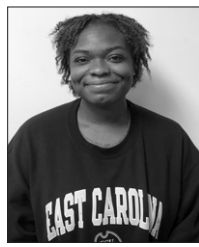
Vape products are especially appealing to people ages 18 to 25, a category most college students fall in.

We are hoping that the awareness of the dangers of vape and e-cigarette products will serve to persuade those who use them to educate themselves on the detrimental effects they can have. However, a potential ban on only certain vape products may be ineffective in the end.



# Students should call family

## Your parents and siblings can serve as support system



**Giana Williams**  
TEC STAFF

As a first-generation college student, I didn't have someone I could turn to for help on how to survive my first year of college and it was a new experience for me and my parents.

When I came to East Carolina University last year, I was highly overwhelmed and had to adjust on my own with the new setting of being away from home.

Though I do live 20 minutes outside of Greenville, I had to encourage myself not to go home every weekend because I wanted to learn how to be independent and get through this adjustment on my own. During this adjustment, I took the advantage to actually call my parents and sister a lot more to help me get through the school year and talk to them about my college experience. And with this, I have become a lot closer to my family.

Calling your family from time to time is not a sign of weakness. Your family is one of your strongest supporters out there that can help your college experience go smoother. I completely understand the excitement of being away from parents and not having to worry about somebody watching over your actions on a day to day basis, but at the end of the day, besides your group of friends, the only people who can actually understand you are your family.

Many students neglect keeping in contact with their family due to their busy schedules with classes, social life or just due to personal reasons. This can happen to the best of us but we must remember that our families are always thinking about us and would always love to hear from us and know what is going on with our lives. Not saying you should tell your parents everything, but they would love to hear about that good grade you got on that exam or the new friend that you made.

As we reach the halfway mark through the semester, students are kicking into high gear when it comes to classes as finals are slowly creeping up in two months. Also about this time, students are getting slightly overwhelmed with the amount of work they have to do in classes, professors that are a nuisance, or just being a college student in general. This is the time where family encouragement is needed most.

Just before fall break, I had failed two exams after constant hours and days of studying (yes, this does actually happen). That week I felt like I was at my lowest point and was very mentally exhausted and took two mental days off from classes. This was the time where I decided to call my parents and explain to them my situation and believe it or not, they took the time to empathize and listen to what I was going through instead of getting angry about the situation. College is not an easy point in

life and it can get overwhelming and sometimes you just want to drop out, but that's not the goal. Give that family member a call and check on them to get your mind off the stress or just to rant to them about your frustration because they would be grateful you had talked to them about the things you are going through.

Without my parents, I would not be working for The East Carolinian right now or even writing this opinion article. I still have about two more years left here on campus, but I know I can get through the rest of my time here at ECU just by the encouragement of my family members.

When you're feeling low, happy, eating an awesome sandwich, or wanting to catch up with everything that's going on back at home, call your family. If you don't have that support system with your family, ECU offers so many resources and organizations.

ECU Cares or even some professors are willing to talk to you and hear what you're going through. Not only do you have a support group back home, but you also have plenty of faculty members you can talk to. Take advantage of this support, they are here for you.

Williams is a sophomore majoring in communication and anthropology and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## OUR STAFF

<b>Jenna Price</b>	Editor-in-Chief
<b>Trajan Warren</b>	Managing Editor
<b>Daniel Roberts</b>	Copy Editor
<b>Summer Tonizzo</b>	News Editor
<b>Elizabeth Johnson</b>	News Chief
<b>Chloe Easton</b>	A&E Editor
<b>Giana Williams</b>	A&E Chief
<b>Brendan Gillespie</b>	Sports Editor
<b>Daniel Shepard</b>	Sports Chief
<b>Pat Polomchak</b>	Multimedia Manager
<b>Michaela Emory</b>	Visual Arts Editor
<b>Erin Flynn</b>	Production Manager

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

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

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

## Contact Info

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

**Email:** [editor@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:editor@theeastcarolinian.com)

**Newsroom:** (252) 328-9238

**Ads:** (252) 328-9245

**Fax:** (252) 328-9143

# Gerlach should be reinstated

## Student believes that chancellor's leave is unnecessary



**Jared Willis**  
GUEST COLUMNIST

I personally feel that Dan Gerlach should be reinstated as East Carolina University's interim chancellor.

During the short time he has been working on campus, Gerlach has made a positive impact on campus. He is always walking around campus to engage with all students, faculty, and staff. Students here enjoy his presence as he is very approachable and genuine about making a difference at our campus. I personally have held multiple conversations with Mr. Gerlach and the way he is being perceived in those videos is far from his true personality.

For the past two summers I have worked at ECU as an Orientation Assistant and traditionally we have guest speakers who speak to the students at the beginning of the first day. Interim chancellor Gerlach spoke during every orientation session this past summer, which was the first time a chancellor had done that. He interacted with many families

**"During the short time he has been working on campus, Gerlach has made a positive impact on campus. He is always walking around campus to engage with all students, faculty and staff."**

to help ensure to both student and parent that East Carolina University was the perfect choice for the student. After the 10th and final session, Gerlach bought the entire orientation staff ice cream from the student center confectionary. While we ate he impressed us all by identifying each staff member and reciting every o'a's name and identifying their hometown. This is not something that was asked of him, but something he wanted to do to show his gratitude for all of the work we did for 10 sessions.

It's not his fault that Greenville only has limited hangouts, so it was inevitable that eventually he would cross paths with students at some point. He was in a bar that allows people that are at least 21 years old to

enjoy alcohol.

He wasn't taking shots or acting in a drunk and disorderly manner. He was an adult man trying to enjoy himself after a hard day of work. Honestly we wouldn't even be in this mess if whoever took the pictures would have just minded their own business.

In conclusion, the UNC board of trustees should reinstate Dan Gerlach as he is one of the greatest chancellors this school has ever had.

Willis is a junior majoring in nutrition and dietetics and a guest columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## HERRIN continued from A1

be allowed to play in 2020, bolstering a deep and experienced portion of the Pirates' roster.

"For the obvious reason, it's going to be great to have him back for another year with all the experience he has at left guard, obviously a very high-end player," head coach Mike Houston said. "But even more so from a character standpoint and leadership standpoint, you can't have enough Cortez Herrin's in your program."

Despite an injury-plagued debut at ECU, Herrin has evolved into a staple up front for the Pirates over the last two years. Herrin started five games in 2017 and all 12 in 2018, notching a streak of 17 consecutive starts with his first four this season. Unfortunately, the injury bug caught back up with him toward the conclusion of the Pirates' home game against the College of William & Mary, forcing senior Fernando Frye to start in his place during the last two contests.

Nevertheless, coach Houston indicated on Tuesday that he expects Herrin and junior running back Darius Pinnix Jr. to return closer to the end of the season, potentially giving the Pirates a much needed boost in two key areas.



Cortez Herrin

While the Pirates entered their open date week at .500, they began conference play 0-2 after a tough 27-17 loss at the hands of Temple University (4-1, 0-1 AAC) last Thursday. With an even tougher slate of games to play in 2019, including a match-up on Oct. 19 against a good University of Central Florida (4-2, 1-1 AAC) team, Houston and his coaching staff have been working tirelessly to develop an inherited roster.

"I talked the other night after the Temple game about how excited I am about the opportunity to develop our roster," Houston said. "We're not just developing it for this year, you're developing for years to come. It's not just on the offensive line, you have the bulk of the offense back next year."

Of the players listed on the two-deep depth chart for the Temple game, a quick count reveals only four members of this year's offensive unit would graduate off the roster in 2020. Two of those, Herrin's replacement and senior center Branden Pena, come from the offensive line, leaving an experienced group to block for sophomore quarterback Holton Ahlers.

Aside from Herrin, who has the second most career starts on the Pirates' roster with 21, only junior left tackle D'Ante Smith has logged more with 23 while junior center John Spellacy is not far behind with 16 of his own.

"The thing that I really challenge some of those players that have multiple years left is, you're working to get better, not just for today, but you're working to get better for next year, for the year after," Houston said.

Certainly that sentiment would apply to the Pirates' offensive line, a unit that should have good chemistry from so many games together in the trenches. This season, however, whether it be the play of the men up front or the personnel behind them, ECU has struggled to move the football and amass points on the scoreboard.

After scoring only 17 points at home against Temple, the Pirates are now averaging 20.7 points per game, placing them 11th out of the 12 teams in the AAC. Additionally, the Pirates rank ninth in the conference in passing offense (202.7 yards per game) and eighth in rushing offense (160.8 yards per game), hardly inspiring numbers for a team that wants to be successful.

With the Pirates' change in coaching staff and shake-up at the running back position, it's hard to determine how much the offensive line's play has factored into ECU's struggles this season. Entering Thursday night's game against the Owls, the Pirates were averaging 4.5 yards per carry in the run game, but logged an average of just 2.9 yards per rush in their latest loss.

To add to that, the Pirates' offensive line allowed three quarterback sacks to the opposing defense, bringing their total up to 11 in 2019, the sixth most in the AAC.

"I think in year one, we do have to adapt what we're doing to a degree to fit the personnel that we inherited," Houston said. "If we're asking players to do something that may be beyond their ability level, then that's on us to a degree. So we got to make sure that we're giving guys an opportunity to play within the scheme and if we need to adjust some things we will."

In part, that statement was aimed at Ahlers who, as Houston stated during his conference call on Monday, sometimes played out of the scheme against Temple by breaking down the pocket and scrambling before properly allowing the play to develop. Perhaps that is where some of those sacks factor in, while the strength of opposing defenses have often overmatched ECU's front four at times.



Mike Houston

Nevertheless, people involved with ECU's football program knew the turnaround under the new coaching staff would take some time. Rebuilds never happen overnight, especially when the new coach, in this case Houston, is attempting to install a drastically different offensive scheme compared to what was in place last season in Greenville.

Through it all, however, the Pirates have one of the key ingredients to a good football team in the making. With an experienced offensive line, anchored by the return of Herrin next season, Houston can begin mixing and matching pieces to fit his style of coaching heading into his second year on the job.

That may not be what Pirate nation wants to hear only halfway through this campaign, but sometimes during rebuilds you just have to look forward to next year.

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



MICHEALEA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

C.J. Johnson lines up at the line of scrimmage while Holton Ahlers and Trace Christian await the snap in the backfield against Temple.

### » ANALYSIS

# Pirates rely on team youth

## Inexperienced players are making an impact



Daniel Shepard  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's (3-3, 0-2 AAC) football team features a combination of 49 freshmen and redshirt freshmen on its 105-man roster, ranking the Pirates as the 19th youngest team in the nation.

While ECU sports just a .500 record after dropping last Thursday's prime time contest against Temple University (4-1, 1-0 AAC), head coach Mike Houston and his coaching staff have received solid production from some younger members of the roster.

The offensive side of the football is perhaps where the Pirates' youth shows up the most. Sophomore quarterback Holton Ahlers has started every game thus far for ECU, recording somewhat of a shaky first half to the season.

Thursday's night 19-for-39 effort through the air for 229 yards gave Ahlers a season-high in passing despite over 100 of those yards being accumulated in the fourth quarter with his team down multiple scores.

"I thought that he played a pretty solid game against Temple. I think he needs to see a lot of positive things he did," Houston said during the weekly coaches teleconference. "I think he's still got to stand in there and play within the scheme at times. The other night a couple times maybe he got a little too quick to get out of there (the pocket). But I do think he played better last Thursday night than he did the previous Saturday."

While Ahlers' inability to throw the ball down the field has often been at the root of the Pirates' offensive struggles, the last two games have flipped that narrative. In a 24-21 win over Old Dominion University (1-4, 0-1 C-USA) in Norfolk, Virginia, Ahlers made a 100-yard receiver out of sophomore wide

receiver Blake Proehl, making him the first Pirate to hit that mark this season.

On Thursday, the Pirates had their second 100-yard receiver of the campaign, this time in the form of freshman C.J. Johnson. With eight catches in ECU's loss to the Owls, Johnson and Ahlers found the endzone twice, hooking up on the team's first and next-to-last drives of the game.

For Johnson, he hauled in his first two touchdowns of his collegiate career and posted career-highs in both receptions and yards.

"I think he's improving every week, I like his competitiveness. He has high expectations for himself," Houston said of Johnson following the game. "I like the fact that you can coach him hard and he responds to it, because he wants to win. I think he's going to be a really good player for us in time and he's getting better every week right now."



C.J. Johnson

With their two massive games in consecutive contests, Proehl and Johnson are one and two on the Pirates' statistic sheet in the receiving column. Proehl currently paces the team with 22 catches, 315 yards and a 14.3 yard per catch average, while Johnson has snagged 19 balls for just over 200 yards this season.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the positives of having a large crop of young players often means they are not as consistent as some of the older guys. As they gain experience and learn how to play through tough moments in ball games, that sentiment should change, but for now, the Pirates may be stuck with some inconsistent contributors. Against Temple, that inexperience reared its head pretty quickly after the first quarter came to a close.

At the end of that opening quarter,

the Pirates had already racked up 77 rushing yards and over 100 yards of total offense. By the end of the game, however, ECU finished with only 98 rushing yards and 327 total yards, the majority of which came on the back of a last-minute scoring drive.

"The running game, some of the things we're doing in the passing game, we looked like what we want to look like," Houston said. "I think that shows some of the things we're capable of, we just were not consistent after the first quarter offensively."

In that run game, more inexperienced, young players can be found. Relieving injured junior running back Darius Pinnix Jr. has been a trio of underclassmen in freshman Demetrius Mauney, redshirt freshman Tay Williams and sophomore Trace Christian. With senior running back Hussein Howe off the roster and in the transfer portal, those three backs have shouldered the load on the ground for the Pirates.

With over 100 yards on the ground during a week two win and 45 more against Temple to pace the team on Thursday night, Mauney jumped both Pinnix and Ahlers as the Pirates' leading rusher while Christian and Williams are fourth and fifth respectively on that list.

Defensively, one of the most impactful players, not just among young guys but for the entirety of the roster, has been freshman cornerback Ja'Quan McMillian. Tabbed as a starter by Houston from the start, McMillian has played

as well as any defensive back in the American Athletic Conference. The Pirates' next game is scheduled to be against the University of Central Florida (4-2, 1-1 AAC) in Orlando on Oct. 19 after an open date for the Pirates. Kickoff between the Pirates and Knights is scheduled for 7 p.m.

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

### » ANALYSIS

# Bills-Raiders trade good for Zay Jones



Pat Polomchak  
TEC STAFF

Any East Carolina University football fan who follows the NFL has likely been watching the Buffalo Bills, regardless of being a fan of the team or not. This is due to the presence of Zay Jones, a former ECU receiver who was taken by the team in the second round of the 2017 draft.

Now, fans of Jones will be sporting the silver and black of the Oakland Raiders, after an Oct. 7 trade saw him shipped to the bay area in exchange for a 2021 fifth-round pick.

The move could be a breath of fresh air for Jones. He goes from a Buffalo team built to win through a tough defense and doing just enough on the offensive side of the ball, not exactly an ideal situation for a young receiver now flanked by capable veterans. As a Bill, Jones produced 1,037 yards



ONLINE | FULL STORY

COURTESY OF TWITTER.COM

Zay Jones played for the Pirates from 2013-2016 and broke several ECU receiving records.

and nine touchdowns on 90 receptions over two full seasons and the beginning of 2019 while catching passes from a mix of Tyrod Taylor, Josh Allen and Matt Barkley, according to Pro Football Reference (PFR). If this team continues to improve, the

move could set up Jones to make an impact for a team that must contend with Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?  
Got something for sale?  
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**  
Contact [smaa@ecu.edu](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu) for more information.



## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19)  
-- Today is a 7 --  
Consider something you think you know with beginner's mind, as if for the first time. Discover surprising aspects of a familiar subject. Make plans to realize a long-term dream.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 --  
A community effort grows stronger through diversity of viewpoints. An opportunity could have long-term benefits. Pursue a shared vision or mission. Satisfying results are available.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 --  
Do the work and profit. Measure the ground taken. Money saved is money earned. Important people are paying attention. Focus for a powerful performance.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 --  
What would you like to learn? A lucky break lights the way. Get materials and tools. Research through personal experience as well as another's viewpoint.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
-- Today is an 8 --  
Collaborate for financial growth. Let your partner know what you need. A lucrative opportunity appears. A dream seems within reach. Work together for common gain.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
-- Today is an 8 --  
Strengthen a close connection by sharing what's in your heart. Authenticity is contagious. Another respects your honesty and vulnerability. Learn and grow together.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
-- Today is a 9 --  
Good news benefits your physical work, health and fitness. It energizes your performance and illuminates a path to achieving a long-desired goal.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
-- Today is a 7 --  
Your love life takes an unexpected twist for the better. You have a secret power source. Keep promises and bargains. Have fun with someone sweet.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 --  
Handle practical details on a domestic project. Surprises have positive benefits. Take advantage of a windfall. Discover treasures and place them agreeably. Create harmony.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
-- Today is an 8 --  
Learn from an experienced teacher. Grasp the practical implications of what you're discovering. A creative dream seems within reach. Research, study and write.

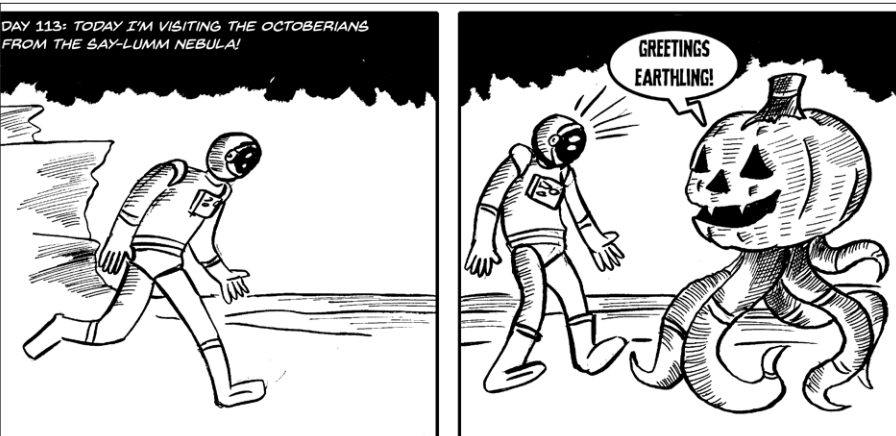
**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
-- Today is a 9 --  
You can see where to focus your efforts for greatest profit. Analyze basic structures to reinforce them. Keep doing what works. Harness a lucrative opportunity.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
-- Today is a 9 --  
A personal dream appears within reach. You have an unexpected advantage. Consider the consequences before acting. Accept divine inspiration. Choose your course and go.

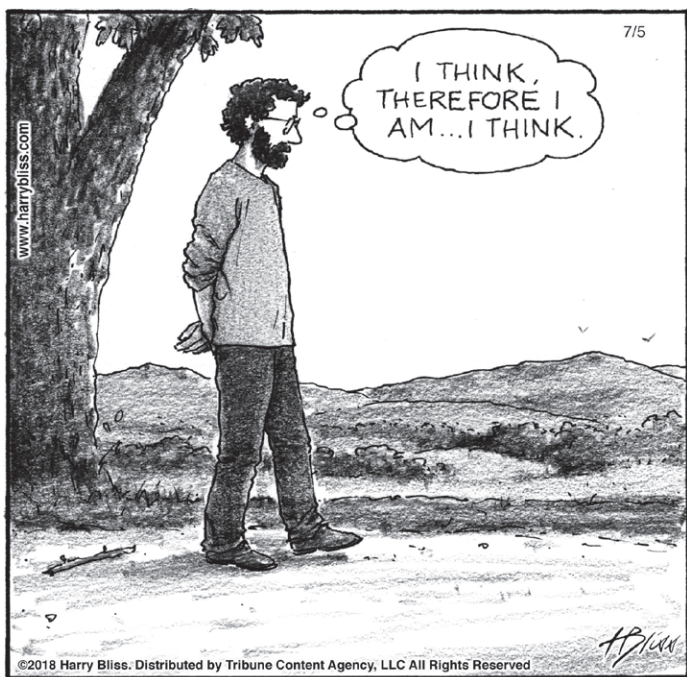
(c)2017 BY NANCY BLACK. DISTRIBUTED BY TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

## COMICS

### ONE AND ONLY



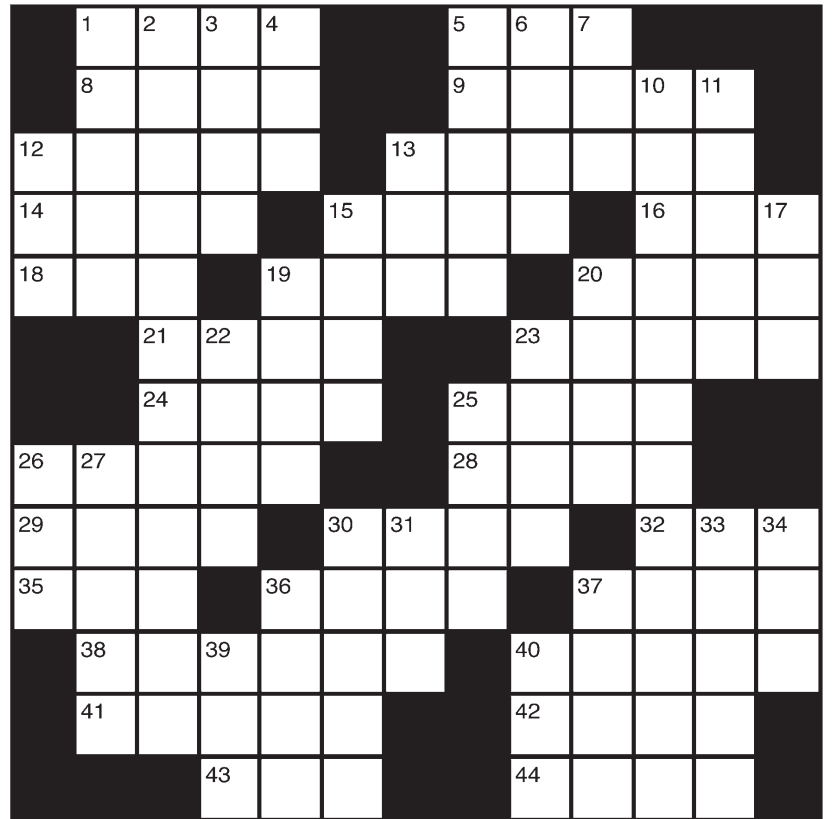
### BLISS



## CROSSWORD

### THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

#### ACROSS

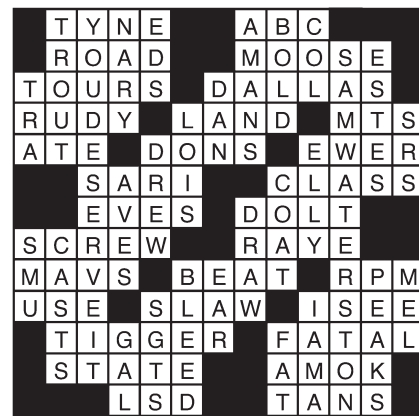
- Jamie's husband on "Mad About You"
- "One Day \_\_\_ Time"
- Actress \_\_\_ Samms
- "Murphy \_\_\_"
- As \_\_\_ dust; parched
- Hockey position
- Spheres
- "Duck \_\_\_"; Marx Brothers movie
- Defunct airline
- Nation whose capital is Damascus: abbr.
- Actor \_\_\_ Damon
- "Tell \_\_\_ Willie Boy Is Here"; Robert Redford movie
- Actress Moran
- Make a second attempt
- Urkel, for one
- Series for Alan Alda
- Actress Zellweger
- \_\_\_ up; put in one's chips
- Lost vital fluid
- Chore
- \_\_\_ up; arrange
- "\_\_\_ Number Four"; sci-fi movie

- Actor \_\_\_ Dane
- "\_\_\_ Trek"
- Andy, Opie or Bee
- Actor Denis
- "My Own Worst \_\_\_"
- "My Name Is \_\_\_"
- Distress signal
- "The \_\_\_ bitsy spider crawled up the water spout..."

#### DOWN

- "\_\_\_ Mason"
- Star of "Judging Amy"
- Thurman's namesakes
- "\_\_\_ Vegas"
- "What I Like \_\_\_ You"
- "The Parent \_\_\_"; Hayley Mills film
- Large Internet service provider
- "Dancing \_\_\_"
- More recently purchased
- Uno, \_\_\_, tres, cuatro...
- "America's \_\_\_ Talent"
- "The \_\_\_ Pebbles"; Steve McQueen movie
- Actress Madigan
- Deep mud
- Examination
- Rex or Donna
- Place in order of importance
- Gender: abbr.
- Baseball stat.
- Fill with joy
- Donahue and others
- "Up in the \_\_\_"; George Clooney film
- "The \_\_\_ Show"; CBS morning program
- "\_\_\_ a Little Tenderness"; hit song for Otis Redding
- "Sesame Street" character
- Chair or sofa
- "\_\_\_, Dear"
- Neckwear for Don Ho

Solution from 10/3



## SUDOKU

### SUDOKU

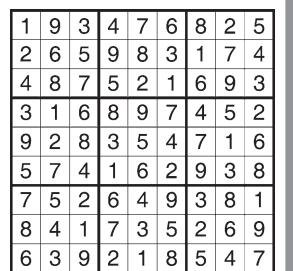
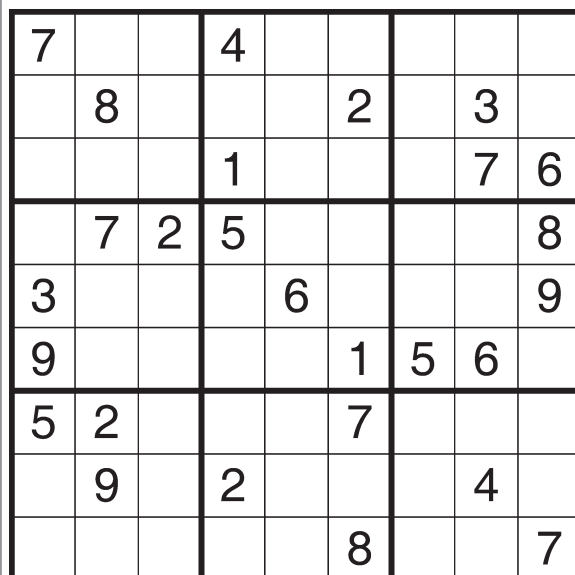
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:



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

Solution from 10/3



© 2018 The Mepham Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

## WISH ECU'S GRADUATES FAREWELL!

ECU's official graduation magazine Anchors Away celebrates graduates as they sail away into a new horizon. Reserve an ad for your graduate, business, or department and congratulate our Pirates.

Sales Deadline: October 28th, 2019  
For more info contact [smaa@ecu.edu](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu)



# 72 HOURS

MAP OUT YOUR WEEKEND

## TODAY

**Comic Book Club**  
Smashed Waffles  
7 p.m.

**Preschool Story Hour**  
Sheppard Memorial  
Library  
11 a.m.

## TOMORROW

**Jessica Hudson**  
The Loft by Stilllife  
10 p.m.

**Coffee + Paddle**  
Blackbeard Coffee  
Roasters  
7 a.m.

## SATURDAY

**R3X Concert**  
Buggy's Bar  
10 p.m.

**Brian Burke Concert**  
Pitt Street Brewing  
Company  
8 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY SÖREN VILKS

Classical Vocal Solo Grammy award winner Karim Sulayman and actress Erica Schuller perform in Monteverdi's L'Orfeo last year directed by Sophie Daneman.

# Grammy winner visits ECU

## Award winning vocalist Karim Sulayman will perform tomorrow

**Hannah Bolick**  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Grammy Award winning vocalist Karim Sulayman is visiting East Carolina University this week for a three day residency that began on Wednesday and will end with a recital on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall.

Sulayman is a Lebanese-American tenor who specializes in Italian Baroque style music. He has performed all over the world and in 2018 released his first solo album "Songs of Orpheus," according to the artists website. His connection to the university stems from his connection with ECU School of Music teaching instructor,

Nicole Franklin.

"Karim and I were in graduate school together at Rice University and we were dear friends, still dear friends, and so I've wanted to get him on campus for a while, but after he won the grammy I was thinking this might be our time to try to snag him before his scheduled completely fills up," Franklin said.

Michael Crane, associate dean of Research, Marketing, and Outreach for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, said students and faculty alike are excited for the visit of such a rising star in the music industry.

"Here is a person who grew up singing in the children's choirs in

Chicago and now is performing on all of the major stages with the professional operas as well as with the flagship orchestras internationally," Crane said. "So you actually get a chance to see and hear somebody of that stature without traveling the world, but you also get to say how do I do what you're doing?"

Senior vocal performance major, Maggie Fox, performed in the master class yesterday under the teachings of Franklin and said that she was excited to see what the class had to offer to help improve

her technique.

"I do get more nervous and my technique goes out the window sometimes so I'm excited, I think it will be really fun," Fox said.

Tomorrow Sulayman will finish his residency with a performance tomorrow night as a part of the Fletcher Recital Series. He will be singing a range of different pieces with music from the 1500 and 1600s in the first half of the program and music from the late 1700s and 1800s on the second half.

Tickets for the recital will be \$10 for ECU students, \$25 general admission at the door and \$20 when bought in advance.

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).

ONLINE | FULL STORY



Maggie Fox



## TEC Talk:

# Time for Tolerance

**Diversity should be accepted and celebrated.** But, as President Donald Trump's rally held at East Carolina University in July proved, many people are a long way from that goal. Rally attendees yelled, "Send her back," referencing Rep. Ilhan Omar, a naturalized U.S. citizen who immigrated from Somalia, after the president commented about her and other Democratic congresswomen of color he criticizes. If acceptance and celebration are elusive in this time of unrest in our communities and nation, can we begin with tolerance? A panel of students and audience members will answer that question.

Thursday, Oct. 17, 6-7:30 p.m.  
Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms 1 and 2  
Free and open to campus and community members

PRESENTED BY  
The East Carolinian  
CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1925

## GRK continued from A1

great opportunity to get our foot in the door for the Greenville music scene," Davis said.

Spazz Presents has been planning concerts and events in both Greenville and Philadelphia for over 15 years. Founded by Jeff Blinder in 2003 out of his living room, the aim of Spazz Presents is to bridge the gap between venues, management and artists, according to Blinder.

Blinder mentioned that while collaborating with GRK at this event, attendees should expect to hear music involving synthesizers, alto sax, throat singing, electronics, visceral noise, drums and bass.

"There is something beautiful about listening to an artist first starting out, in seeing their rise to something that other people will learn to love and admire too," Blinder said. "The intimacy and artistry is unparalleled, and the folks that do seek out these types

of events tend to show their appreciation tenfold."

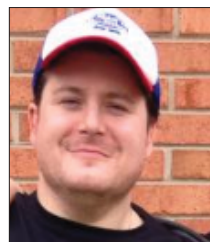
Joe Warren will also be performing a set at the GRK sessions. Performing under the name DJ Octus, he plans to play the drum and bass in a jungle music style. According to Warren, it is a style of electronic music that originated in the United Kingdom in the early 1990s.

This will be Warren's first performance in partnership with GRK. The artist said GRK is about bringing a variety of underground music to the public.

"My favorite part of being on stage is when the crowd is vibing off my set and being a DJ is like being the conductor of a train- I'm trying to take the audience on a journey when I play... I'm always excited for every chance I get to share it with others," Warren said.

The performance is free of charge and the location can be accessed by contacting Spazz Presents on Facebook or Instagram. Artists performing are primarily based in North Carolina, but two artists are commuting from Philadelphia. Donations are encouraged to support the performer's travel costs.

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).



Jeff Blinder

# the BIG VAPE THEORY

EST. 2014

Kratom Supplier Disposable Devices Pod Devices & Salt Nic Liquids Trusted CBD



**SHAKE AND VAPE!**

If you ain't first, you're last, so come visit Greenville's first and foremost vape shop.

(252) 689-6021  
[info@thebigvapetheory.com](mailto:info@thebigvapetheory.com)  
2800 E 10th St #102, Greenville, NC 27858