

**PIRATES WILL FACE COPPIN STATE AT HOME** to A4

# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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## COMMENCEMENT FALL 2019



East Carolina University graduates wait at commencement. Fall 2019 graduation will be held in Minges Coliseum on Dec. 13.

### Graduation fashion walks across the stage

Emma Wilbur  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's fall graduation is approaching on Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. in Minges Coliseum. This year's fashion is expected to be trendy with pops of color and bold accessories.

Though there can be a dress underneath, most of the focus during the ceremony is on the shoes and accessories for both men and women, as mentioned by Tiffany Blanchflower a teaching assistant professor in interior design and merchandising. This could be some boots for women or a purple and gold tie for men.

"It's really kind of interesting because you don't know what they have on because of the cap and gown," Blanchflower said.

Of course there is the cap itself which students get to decorate for graduation. This is where they get to express more of themselves whether it's displaying their major, honoring a family member, or just something funny and cute. Another factor to impact fashion choices is the location of ECU itself.

Blanchflower said when it comes to mens' graduation fashion, the style comes off as more casual.

"Sometimes you'll see sandals even though it is fall graduation or spring graduation, it's because we're closer to like the coastal community, you'll see that which will be a little bit different," Blanchflower said.

As for women most of their choices are on what's trendy or fashionable at the time. This could also be influenced by the season whether or not they choose to wear something shorter or longer, or lots of color rather than white.

A great local boutique to check out for graduation attire would be Serendipity Boutique. They're located on E Arlington Blvd and are open Monday thru Saturday. The boutique has great selections for just about anything and plenty of styles to choose from.

"For winter graduation the color is not as much of an issue, they will do just about any color. In the springtime people are definitely looking for white dresses," Josie Harz, the owner of Serendipity Boutique said.

As for this season it's still dresses but a lot of boots and earrings for women. They also will focus on their hair, nails and makeup to add to their graduation look, according to Harz.

"(They like) statement earrings because it really is all you see when you're at graduation because of the graduation gown," Harz said. "Trendy, big statement earrings are always a great piece."

### Graduates reflect

#### Students look back on their time at ECU

Ahren Rau  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Seniors at East Carolina University reflect on their time as Pirates while preparing for their Fall Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. in Minges Coliseum.

Madison Tinkle, a senior majoring in elementary education, said she spent four years at ECU after growing up in Davidson County, North Carolina.



Madison Tinkle

Tinkle said her favorite school years were during her junior and senior year because she was able to experience elementary education first hand through her internship.

Tinkle named Julie Stanley, a professor for the College of Education, as her favorite and most influential professor.

"She made class so much fun for me and I feel like I learned so many great teaching strategies and techniques from her," Tinkle said.

Tinkle said the first football game she attended her sophomore year was one of her fondest memories at ECU because the atmosphere and school spirit made her proud to be a Pirate.

However, Tinkle said college wasn't always fun and said the biggest thing she learned was managing her time wisely.

"I had to juggle being a full-time student while having a full-time job. It was a struggle at first. A lot of long nights in the library and early mornings going to class. But it was all worth it," Tinkle said.

Tinkle said she would love to return to Davidson County after graduation to look for a job in the school system she grew up in.

Rushil Patel, a senior finance major, said he will be graduating after spending three and a half years at ECU.



Rushil Patel

Patel said he has worked at a local financing firm in Greenville while attending ECU and said he had

volunteered in Raleigh while also in college.

Patel said his final semester was the most fun for him because the coursework wasn't as challenging as previous semesters.

Patel named professors Scott Below and Matthew Walker as two of his favorites in the Department of Finance.

"In general, most of the business professors are nice and easy to get along with and they're very helpful if you reach out to them via email or even in person," Patel said.

Patel said his favorite thing to do while at ECU was hanging out with all of the friends he made throughout the years.

After graduation, Patel said he wants to be a financial analyst and said his goal would be to eventually become a fund manager for a financial firm or company.

> GRADUATES page A2

### City of Greenville cancels Whirligig shows

Sarah Hooper  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

On Nov. 15 Whirligig Stage announced on their Facebook page that the City of Greenville advised the performance arts center to cancel multiple upcoming shows that are not in the category plays or movies.

Whirligig Stage operates under the zoning laws of "theater, movies or dramas including outside facilities," which allows them to offer plays, musicals, improv and comedy theater shows, according to the Brock Letchworth, the Public Information Officer for the City of Greenville.

Recently, the city was notified that Whirligig had been holding "club-like activities," which are not allowed under their zoning ordinance, according to a City of Greenville information officer. The events are being held by third parties that are renting the facility from Whirligig.

Renting out their facility is not permitted, according to Whirligig's current zoning ordinance. All activities must be hosted by the Whirligig business itself, not through the rental of their property.

"The City has issued a cease and desist notice for Whirligig to end all DJ and club-related activities immediately," Letchworth said.

Connor Gerney, senior theatre arts major at East Carolina University, rented out Whirligig stage for former projects for his undergraduate research project. He said the location acted as perfect stage for his original play.

"I rented out Whirligig last February for my Undergraduate Research into Creative Activities Grant project," Gerney said. "I was awarded the URCA grant by ECU to help me produce an original play I wrote and directed, called 'Twilight Boy.'"

Gerney said a close friend of his planned to have her URCA grant project held at Whirligig Stage in late Nov., but it had to be moved to a new performance space last minute due to the zoning issues Whirligig is facing.

Letchworth said the zoning issues were brought up more as a concern by The City of Greenville and there is no plan to shut down the performance center any time soon.

"The City of Greenville is not trying to shut down the

> WHIRLIGIG page A6



Whirligig Stage required to cancel upcoming performances.

**ONLINE**

» ARTS: ECU students compete in Concerto Competition Finals tonight

» OPINION: ECU needs to adapt a new model to find a chancellor

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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## BRIEFS

## Last day of fall 2019 semester classes

Today is the last day of classes for the fall 2019 semester. This is the last day students will be able to submit grade replacement requests.

## Dowdy Student Bookstore's annual holiday sale

From 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., at ECU Dowdy Student Stores many items will be on sale and there will be free gift wrapping with purchase. Beats headphones will be on sale and there will be a drawing to win a pair of Beats headphones. There will be free photos with Santa and PeeDee from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Visiting artist to lecture on artistic process

Tomorrow from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jenkins Fine Arts Center in Speight 1220 ceramicists Laurie and Tyler James will discuss their artistic process and work.

## SGA Academic Affairs Committee to meet

Today from 5 to 6 p.m. the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Government Association will meet in the Main Campus Student Center room 222.

## Reading Day returns tomorrow

Students will spend time studying for their upcoming exams during reading day tomorrow.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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

## Christmas at Five Points

## Annual celebration kicks off holiday season in Greenville

Madison Barnhill  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The annual Greenville Gives celebration in Uptown Greenville will take place on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. where families can attend and celebrate the holiday season.

Greenville Gives will offer free treats, have a tree lighting ceremony and a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" from Greenville's Mayor P.J. Connelly.

Greenville Gives was started to celebrate the mark of the holidays with the tree lighting and collect donations for those in the Greenville community, Connelly said. Similar to previous holiday events, this one will include band performances, dances from local dance studios and a visit from Santa Claus, he said.

"It's exciting to have all the children down there and to be able to get them excited about Christmas time and of course it's a great community event for everyone to gather and have a good time and be able to prepare for the Christmas season," Connelly said.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas," the story is read annually by the Mayor of Greenville will be read again by Connelly. Following the story's end will be the tree lighting to set the holiday cheer



P.J. Connelly

for the season, Connelly said. Connelly said one of his favorite holiday traditions is spending time with and being able to enjoy the Christmas season with his children, wife and immediate family. Spending time with his family is his favorite thing to do during the holidays like most families around

this time with it being a time to come together.

"Of course the tree lights are our biggest event over the holidays and the day after there will be a parade and there will be multiple other events going on in the City of Greenville," Connelly said.

Greenville Gives provides a chance for the people of Greenville to support nonprofits by making monetary donations and donations like toys, paper towels, hygiene items and socks, Patricia Tyndall, marketing and events coordinator for the City of Greenville said.

Visitors can take in the annual tree lighting, give to the donation collection to benefit those in need in the Greenville area as well as enjoy crafts and activities, Tyndall said.

Tyndall said donations can be made to the participating nonprofits: Greene County Community Health Centers, Toys for Tots, The Food Bank of Eastern NC, Salvation Army, The American Cancer Society/Hope Lodge, Robbie's Clubhouse, The Greenville Jaycees, The Ronald McDonald House, City of Greenville PAL Program/Police Athletic League and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville.

This event is the official kickoff of the holidays and the season of giving says Tyndall or Greenville recreation and parks. It also is the City of Greenville's annual tree lighting. It's festive fun for the community and an opportunity for the city to celebrate the season, she said.

"This event is a dose of holiday magic. For two hours, everyone can come together and share in the wonder and spirit of the season. From the arrival of Santa, to the sound of the horse and carriage circling the street to the snow fall-



The Christmas Tree that will be lit at Five Points Plaza in Downtown Greenville.

ing and the pop of the crackling fire where everyone can roast marshmallows, it begins to look and feel a lot like Christmas in Five Points Plaza," Tyndall said.



Nicholas Cottrell

Greenville because of the temperature difference since he is a New Jersey native.

Cottrell said he is looking forward to going to this event since

that will be one of his last days in Greenville before the holidays and basic training with the army in the new semester.

"Some of my favorite holiday traditions (back home) are going to the Christmas tree place and picking out a tree to put inside of our living room, decorating our kitchen with wreaths and other small, festival ornaments," Cottrell said.

Cottrell said Greenville has made it seem like the holidays with Uptown being decorated with wreaths, lights and ornaments.

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

## Students give study advice for finals week

Michelle Mazzei  
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Final exam season can be an overwhelming time for students, but East Carolina University offers resources to help students adjust to the stressful period and push through it, which could be useful in students' futures.

Ashley Chavez, a sophomore intended nursing major, said her stress skyrockets as finals quickly approach.

Chavez utilizes the test prep opportunities that the Pirate Academic Success Center (PASC) offers throughout the year along with the cumulative final test prep at the end of the semester to prepare for her finals, she said. The tutors through the PASC help point out what specific topics to focus on and how to study those materials, she said.

"I make a ridiculous number of flashcards. So far, between the Anatomy and Microbiology courses that I am taking this semester, I have made over 1,000 flashcards. Being able to hold something tangible and talking myself through topics is the best way for me to fully comprehend the concepts being taught in class," Chavez said.

Chavez said to utilize resources ECU offers and to always review old homework assignments, old tests, notes, and recorded lectures. Don't hesitate to ask for assistance, she said.

To prevent being stressed throughout the year, especially during finals, students can study daily, even if it's just 30 minutes every day for a specific subject. It will greatly decrease the work students will have the night before the exam, Chavez said.

"A piece of advice that I was constantly given as a freshman but never listened to, even though I should have, was to take time for yourself. Studying is extremely important when it comes to the success of your education but taking time for your mental health is just as, if not more, important to the success of your education," Chavez said.

Rosalinda Kowalczewski, a senior anthropology major, said she feels an increase of stress around the end of the semester, especially as a senior.

Kowalczewski said she tends to go straight to the professors and faculty themselves for assistance. She said she goes during office hours to review past exams.



Four students gather in a study room together at Joyner Library.

"When I first came to ECU, I would always stay in my room to study, but now I force myself to go somewhere else, like the library, to do work. Staying in a place with a lot of distractions would keep me from doing work that needed to be done," Kowalczewski said.

Director of Pirate Academic Success Center Elizabeth Coghill, said finals are a stressful time for everyone. She often sees professors assigning exams right before final exams. Coghill said a lot of students come in the day of their exam when they're stressed, and the PASC staff can tell their anxiety levels are up.



Elizabeth Coghill

The PASC is busy throughout the year, but it's not nearly at the level they experience towards the end of the semester. When students come back from Thanksgiving break,

professors have review days for Monday and Tuesday and that's it. It can be a lot for students, Coghill said.

Coghill said the most important combination for preparing for finals is getting course content support but also getting study skill coaches. Those individuals are professional staff members or upper-level undergraduate students who help students get a feel for new approaches, strategize, time-management and accountability, she said.

"Going back to the syllabus and making sure students know the content of their exam, whether it's cumulative or not is very important. Finals easily stress students out, especially with break and then we come back and go straight to finals. It's definitely going to be a shocker for some beginning students and even our upperclassmen. It's a quick turn around and students need to be thinking about exams now," Coghill said.

Coghill said a lot of students pull all-nighters to prepare, but students need their sleep, especially before a test. Students aren't going to have the memory they think they are going to have. After the test, they'll go back, and crash and they can really mess up their sleeping schedule and studying for other classes, she said.

"Finals week can be challenging because the exam schedule is different. Someone might have never had an 8 a.m. before and their exam is now at 8 a.m. They have to prepare ahead of time and come up with a plan. Students can lose vital time to study and prepare because the schedule is so different," Coghill said.

Faculty will put study guides and resources on Blackboard and students won't take advantage of it and it's really important they look for resources the faculty has given them, Coghill said.

Coghill said the PASC has tutoring by appointment that's free and students can either call or come in to make those appointments. They also do walk in services; Monday through Thursday between 4 and 6 p.m. to accommodate to certain student's needs who aren't necessarily free during other times, she said.

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

## GRADUATES continued from A1

Madison Boone, a senior English major, will be graduating this semester after three and a half years spent at ECU.

Boone said she worked as a tutor at Pitt County Community College and in the ECU Office for Faculty Excellence while going to school full-time.

"I worked both of them at the same time over the summer in one semester and that was a lot. But now I work at just the ECU (Office for Faculty Excellence) so I have time for classes," Boone said.

Boone said some of her favorite memories at ECU came with her friends but her favorite memory was her research

and creative week social media internship.

Boone said the best advice she was given was to take advantage of connections in and out of her discipline.

"What made the best of my years there was going out of my way to make connections, you know. Meet professors, go to the events on campus, meet other students and people that can help you on your journey," Boone said.

Boone said she has been accepted into the ECU Technical and Professional Masters program and said she plans to continue her collegiate career.

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



East Carolina University graduates celebrate graduation by throwing caps at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

## OUR VIEW

### Counseling center needs assistance

During East Carolina University's fall semester of 2019, there have been six reported student deaths on campus. The ECU Center for Counseling and Student Affairs has been fully booked as of November, and has been overly busy through the fall semester.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that the CCSA is doing all it can to help the needs of students. That being said, with the high demand of student appointments and low staffing of the center itself, the counseling center needs to be improved if it wants to properly meet the needs of the student body.

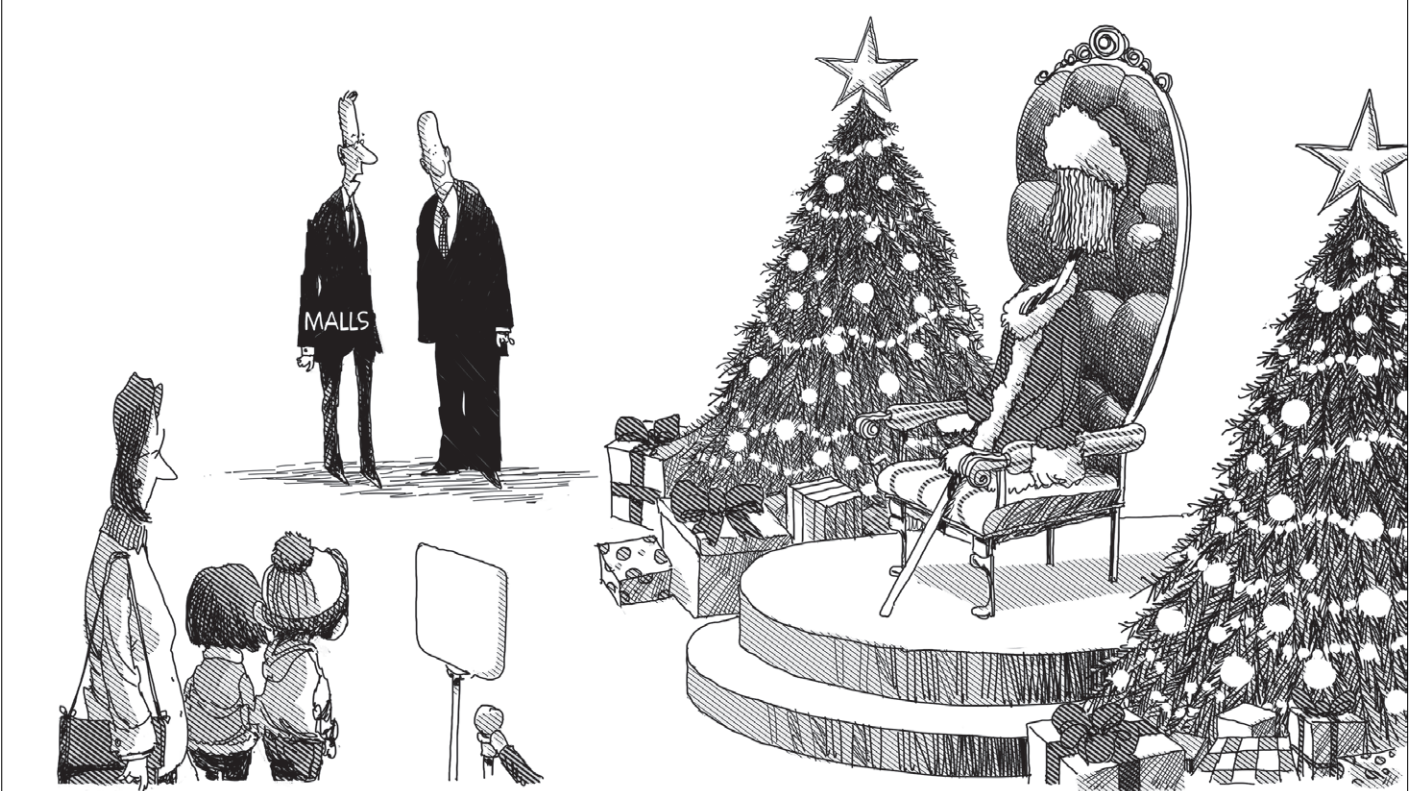
ECU's CCSA has been booked for the remainder of the fall semester, causing students to have to wait until the spring semester to get a normal appointment. Students in need can get emergency counseling via the center's "crisis hours" Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy, counseling appointments are up by 13%. That coupled with the fact that the CCSA has two job vacancies have been proving the center has not been properly equipped to deal with student needs.

Although it may have the availability for walk-in appointments during the "crisis hours" but the reality is that students cannot plan out times of need and personal emergencies. While some students may not mind being deferred to other locations on campus if the appointment is not dire, others may disagree. Especially if it is a true emergency and the student does not feel comfortable going to the hospital or off of campus to the Health Sciences Campus, those students may cause harm to oneself.

In order to preserve the health and emotional state of students at ECU, the CCSA needs to employ more workers and in turn make the center more available for those in need.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



"THE RISE OF BIG BOX AND ONLINE RETAIL HAVE FORCED SOME BELT-TIGHTENING. THIS YEAR'S SANTA IS A MOP WE FOUND AT AN ABANDONED SPENCER'S GIFTS."

## » SENIOR COLUMN

# Change is inevitable

## Life has many phases that should be embraced

*Living like Libby*



**Elizabeth Johnson**  
TEC STAFF

I graduate from college next week and I thought my life would be REALLY, REALLY, REALLY different when I'd be saying those words.

When I started at East Carolina University at 16 years old, I was a biology major who wanted to be a pediatric neurologist. I'd imagine myself right now preparing to move to some other city to start med school and enter the next phase of my life.

But no. I switched my major to English because I HATED being a biology major.

I currently do not have a job lined up but I don't hate myself or my life. As I reflect upon my time at East Carolina University, I am grateful for growth, self-exploration and most importantly getting the hot scoop.

You're here for four years, more or less, and in that time you're not a failure for changing your mind. Plans change. You change.

During my first semester of being an English major, my classmate Julie told me that I could try out to write for The East Carolinian. I ended up starting at The East Carolinian in Fall 2018 and have been getting the hot scoop since. Just kidding. I write about culverts and construction, but I'm your girl if you ever have any con-



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Johnson poses on the mall of East Carolina University. She is graduating in December 2019.

struction related questions.

At five years old, my dream was to be a part time Walmart cashier and Sonic waitress and then be Hannah Montana at night. My plans have since changed and then changed again and again and they'll probably change again if I'm being honest.

Change is part of life though. We overcome, we persevere and we roll with the punches. There's always time to break out my roller skates and follow my childhood dream of being a Sonic Waitress or go back to school and try to be a doctor.

Right now, I love being a reporter, but I'm not required to do that for the rest of my life. You don't have to be anyone other than who you want to be at literally any point in your life. You will waste so much

time of your short life trying to be someone your not.

Surround yourself with cool people. Travel often, whether it be to China or a homemade roller coaster park where you get injuries you don't recover from for weeks. Become passionate about something and study sometimes.

As the planner that I never use with daily quotes says, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years," the 16th President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln said.

Johnson is a senior majoring in English and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

## OUR STAFF

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## Contact Info

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

**Email:** editor@theeastcarolinian.com

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

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

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

# Final exams are unnecessary

*Tano Talk*



**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

It's finals week at East Carolina University, and if the stress hadn't already set in for many students, it definitely has now. Between long hours in Joyner, sleepless nights, and trying to study everything you learned during

the semester in a week, it's no wonder why students dread finals week so much. So my question is, why do we have them?

Sure, finals are seen as essential to many as they reflect the student's knowledge that was gained in the course. Usually, they are cumulative and touch on key points from each unit covered, but sometimes professors will have final exams that cover the last few points learned. These exams are usually worth a hefty amount and can seriously affect the outcome of a student's final grade in the class.

So, students are expected to retain everything they have learned in a class, along with the other classes they are taking, for a test which they will more than likely take back to back with their other tests. There is a limited time to study, especially when you need to study for multiple exams, and this, in part with the little amount of sleep students usually get during finals week, can impair a student's ability to take their final.

Not only does this seem unethical to me, but it is also unfair for those students who may

**" In my opinion, final exams should not serve to assess a student's knowledge of a course, but I am aware that they will still be a requirement here and at most universities..."**

not be the best test takers. A student can have extensive knowledge on a subject and do great on their projects and writing assignments, but not perform so well on tests. This doesn't necessarily mean they didn't learn anything in the class, but that this method of assessing their knowledge may not be the most accurate.

As for the students that usually do perform well on their tests, they still may not be able to take it at their full potential due to many reasons, such as lack of sleep, stress, limited time to study, etc. Yet, out of all of the exams that they did well on, this is usually the one that affects their final grade the most.

I have three final exams being held the same day this week, each only an hour or so apart from each other. This is nothing new to me, as I've had multiple finals fall on the same day before. But that's not to say that it hasn't imposed a great amount of stress on me, as I am concerned I won't be able to perform adequately on these tests. Cramming information from three separate courses that will be assessed in three tests within a short duration of time and being expected to remember everything seems nearly impossible.

I believe that professors should provide the option for students who have a sufficient grade in the class to be able to opt out of the exam if they feel like it will negatively affect their grade.

I also think that professors should adapt new approaches to measuring a student's intelligence, such as projects, that can display a student's knowledge in a creative way. This allows for a student to think and apply this subject knowledge in a new way, unlike memorizing terms and definitions that will be tested by marking in answers on a scantron.

In my opinion, final exams should not serve to assess a student's knowledge of a course, but I am aware that they will still be a requirement here and at most universities, and that doesn't look like it is changing anytime soon. However, professors should consider new approaches to assess a student's knowledge. This provides students the opportunity to perform at their full potential.

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

## » ANALYSIS

## Houston's impact on Pirates

ECU football has made strides in first year under Mike Houston

Daniel Shepard  
TEC STAFF

One year ago, Mike Houston inked a five-year contract to become the 22nd head coach of East Carolina University's (4-8, 1-7 AAC) football team. Nearly a year later, Houston stood at the podium inside the Ward Sports Medicine Building with a disappointed look

on his face.

His team had just lost to the University of Tulsa (4-8, 2-6 AAC) by a score of 49-24, capping off a 4-8 season on an extremely sour note.

"We expect to be competitive with any team in this league," Houston said on Saturday. "We expect to be able to go out and play games at a very, very high level and be able to win any given Saturday. Because of those expectations that we have created within the program, days like today are very disappointing."

Despite a lackluster 1-7 conference record that mirrored last season's 3-9 Pirate team, a pair of losses late in the year inspired a new sense of confidence rarely found around ECU's program over the last three campaigns.

At their peak, the Pirates were 2-1 on the season following a rare road win, one of two such victories gathered in 2019. The valley, however, came quickly after in the form of back-to-back losses, the latter of which was a 45-20 loss to the University of South Florida (4-8, 2-6 AAC) on homecoming in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

For most programs, a blowout defeat to a team that just recently fired its head coach would have wrecked their morale and cast a negative attitude over the remainder of the season. For the Pirates, the opposite was true as the next two games against nationally ranked opponents showcased a rebuilding team not far away from success.

Losing by a combined 11 points to the University of Cincinnati (10-2, 7-1 AAC) and Southern Methodist University (10-2, 6-2 AAC) instilled what Houston talked about, the sense of being able to play with anyone in the conference at a competitive level.

"Is it (the program) in better shape than it was a year ago? Yes. Anybody that doesn't see that or doesn't say that, obviously is not paying a whole lot of attention," Houston said. "At the same time, are we where we want to be? Not even close. We have very high expectations for East Carolina football. This is a great place, I think that we can get there, there's no doubt and we will get there."

Obviously, that doesn't start with a 25 point loss to a team that ultimately won four games.



Mike Houston negotiates with a referee during the Pirates' most recent game against Tulsa.

Where that does start, however, is behind the scenes. In the weight room, film room and practice facilities is where the Pirates, under Houston's guidance, will make their greatest jump, because that is where this most recent jump originated from.

Development, on both sides of the football, has been a staple of Houston's first season at the helm of ECU's football program. Sophomore quarterback Holton Ahlers finished the year 11th in the nation with 3,387 passing yards and tied for 34th with 21 passing touchdowns.

Freshman wide receiver C.J. Johnson cracked the top-40 in the FBS with 908 yards, and while the Pirates failed to record a 1,000-yard receiver, they racked up three wide-outs with at least 500 receiving yards.

Mike Houston

"When we eat pregame meal, it blows you away, because we eat by class," Houston said. "When I tell the freshmen to go get something to eat, half the room stands up. We've got to continue to grow them up, teach them how to fight and overcome adversity. Teach them how to play this game the right way."

While the offense is chocked full of budding standout players, the defensive side of the foot-

ball has been a sticking point. A season-high 669 yards and 49 points allowed to the Golden Hurricane ensured the Pirates would finish 119th out of 130 FBS teams in total defense (469.3 yards allowed per game) and 110th in points allowed per game (33.7)

Despite inheriting three seniors on the defensive line, ECU was gashed for an average of 6.52 yards per play, effectively mitigating any positive performance on offense.

"We got to get bigger, faster and stronger is the biggest thing," Houston said. "Certainly, philosophy-wise, myself and my predecessor are drastically different on what we envision we want on that side of the football. You look at our size versus the size of some of the teams in this league, and we've got to continue to develop our guys."

Develop. That word showed up a lot in Houston's final postgame press conference of the season. With such a young roster and a solid recruiting class set to sign on Dec. 18, a lot of development is needed to return this program back to its former glory.

Nevertheless, so much progress has already been made, mostly in the way players are developed and how they go about honing their craft when the lights are not shining on them.

"I think coach Houston has done a great job coming in and just making this place look like a championship culture," senior defensive line-

man Alex Turner said. "He's done just a great job changing the habits of players, changing their attitude, making us work differently than we ever have."

That culture shift, something Houston has talked about as being the most important first step in turning a program around, works hand-in-hand with off field preparation. Rediscovering that love for the game that most players possess is a driving force in pulling a team out of a spiral like the Pirates were in prior to Houston's hiring.

On game day, that shows up in the play of the men on the field and ultimately in the final result.

Despite ending the season losing six of their final seven games, Ahlers racked up four straight games with at least 300 passing yards while senior defensive end Kendall Futrell finished the campaign ranked 12th in the nation with 11 sacks.

Nevertheless, the offseason is about adjustments and evaluating things that worked and things that did not, for players and coaches alike.

"Obviously we've got to take a look, I've got to take a look at everything we've done," Houston said. "Just because it worked for us some other place, doesn't mean it's what we need to do here."

Mistakes often signal to a coaching staff that development is still needed to be successful. In the Pirates' two tight losses to nationally ranked teams, late-game miscues hampered their efforts while a slew of defensive mistakes allowed Tulsa to play pitch-and-catch with its receivers for much of the second half.

With experience those mistakes will dry up, but don't discount the progress that has already been made by this coaching staff in year one.

"The culture in our locker room, the work ethic, the commitment to each other, the unity, just so many positives off the field," Houston said. "There's so much positive about the group that we have right now. We just got to continue to push forward and we got to continue to develop and we got to continue to fight to get our program to where we want it to be."

Pirate Nation can cling to tangible improvement as the program received its fourth win in a season for the first time since 2015 two weeks ago with a win over the University of Connecticut (2-10, 0-8 AAC). Nevertheless, behind the scenes, so many more strides have been taken, ones that should begin to pay-off in 2020.

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



Tristen Newton protects the ball from VMI defenders in a game earlier this season. The Pirates defeated the Keydets 80-68 inside Mingos Coliseum to pick up their first win of the season.

## ECU to play Coppin State University

Lydia Ryan  
TEC STAFF

Tuesday night, the East Carolina University men's basketball team (2-6, 0-0 AAC) will battle Coppin State University (3-6, 0-0 MEAC) on the court in Mingos Coliseum for the beginning of a five-game homestand after spending most of the season away thus far.

Coppin State is coming off of a recent loss to the University of Montana (3-5, 0-0 BSC) with a final score of 69-62. Against Montana, Coppin made 36.3% of its shots in the first half and 39.0% for the game. Overall for the season they are currently shooting 37.4% from field goal range, 27.3% from the three point line and 65.5% from the free throw line.

Leading Coppin in points this season is redshirt senior guard Kamar McKnight with an average of 14.9 points per game. Sophomore center Brendan Medley-Bacon leads the team in blocks with 13 this season and redshirt junior

guard Dejaun Clayton leads in assists with 32.

ECU will be returning home for the first of five straight home games. Despite only winning two games this season, the Pirates are continually showing improvements in their offensive game. They are coming off of one of their best offensive performances this season at James Madison University (5-3, 0-0 CAA), posting season-highs in points (89), three-point shots made (13) and assists (18).



Joe Dooley

"We are giving up way too many points," head coach Joe Dooley said. "Our offensive stats were great the other games, our defense let us down."

Sophomore forward Jayden Gardner currently leads the American Athletic Conference in scoring with an average of 19.4 points per game and sits second in the conference with an average of nine rebounds per game.

Sophomore guard Tremont Robinson-White will play his first home game with ECU when Coppin State comes to visit on Tuesday. The sophomore has missed most of the beginning of the season due to injury but returned to the court against JMU.

"Coppin State is really impressive, they beat JMU," Gardner said. "They shoot, I think coach said, top 10 in threes put up in a game. So, we've got to be able to guard the three point line and be able to guard them from driving to the basket."

However, the leading scorer against JMU was freshman guard Curtis Logan. Logan scored 18 points for ECU in the game, making it the highest scoring game of his career.

East Carolina will tip-off against Coppin State at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The game will be held in Mingos Coliseum in Greenville, North Carolina.

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 6 -- Organize for what's ahead. Before advancement, keep existing promises. Consider the best route in order to avoid pitfalls. Schedule carefully and recharge when possible.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Manage financial responsibilities. Work could interfere with playtime. Don't offer to pay for everything. Keep your bargains. Unexpected costs may require adaptation.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Attend to family matters and enjoy domestic projects. Organize and beautify your spaces. Don't try to force an outcome. Make and clean messes.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Friends can be especially helpful. Teamwork amplifies individual efforts. A barrier could block the path. Wait for better conditions or find a way around. Collaborate.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Work together. Strategize for solutions with your partner. Coordinate your responses. You can get what you need. Watch for unexpected roadblocks. Encourage each other.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Discover conflicting interests. Your heart and mind may not agree on everything. Resolve misunderstandings immediately. Consider consequences before advancing. Maintain clear communication channels.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Put in a correction at work. Resolve a challenge. Listen for opportunities to do what you love. Discuss arrangements. Focus to benefit your career.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Your workload could seem intense. Others appreciate your great attitude. Practice for best physical performance. Passion could surge. Wait to launch until you're ready.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- New income sources tempt. They may require overcoming a hurdle. Profitable gains are possible. Avoid risky business or great expense. Monitor cash flow.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- You can reach your destination. Revise your route around an obstacle. Monitor conditions to avoid traffic or delays. Travel light. Watch where you're going.

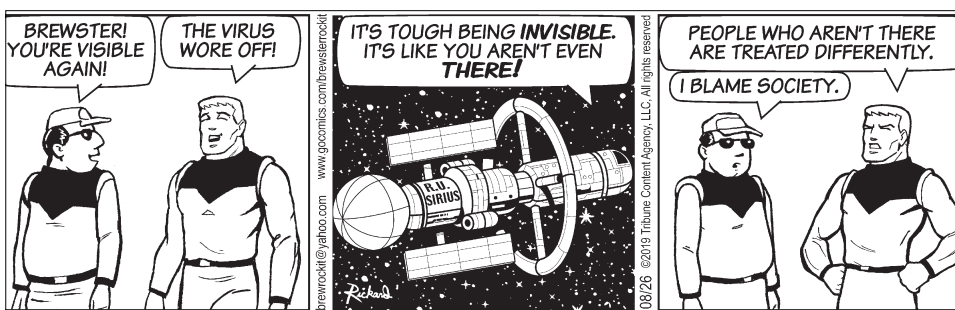
**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Romance remains a distinct possibility. Navigate unexpected twists and turns. Don't overspend or overindulge. Learn from someone you love. Have fun together.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- You're especially confident, strong and creative. The more you complete, the more you gain. Challenge old assumptions. Wait for great conditions to advance.

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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKET



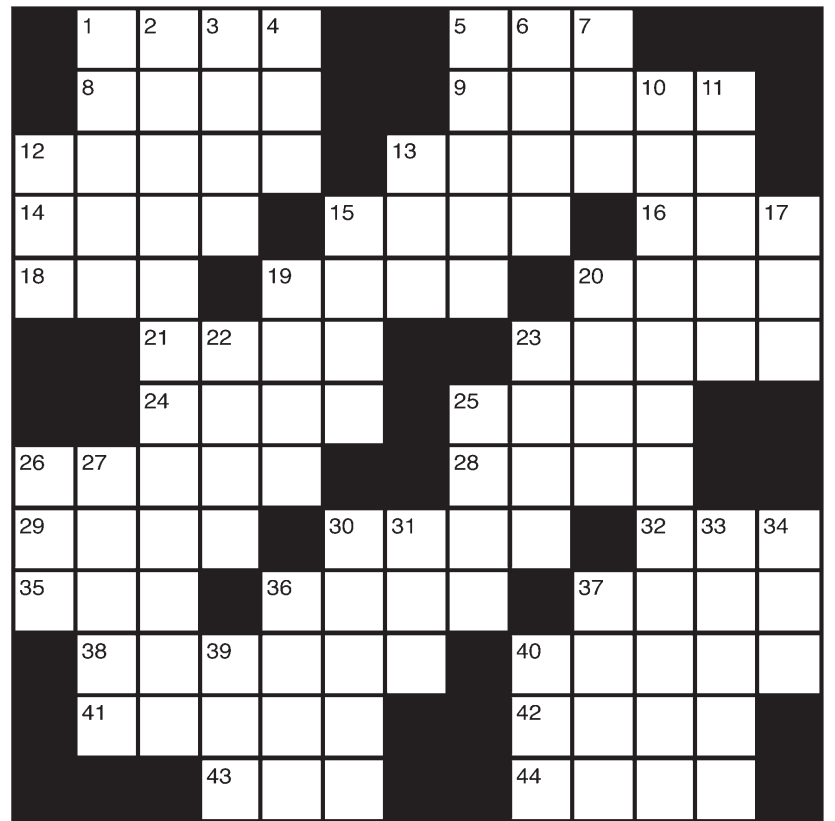
## BLISS



## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

- 1 Actor \_\_ Alda
- 5 "Harper Valley \_\_"
- 8 Actress Turner
- 9 "The Price Is \_\_"
- 12 \_\_ Rouge, Louisiana
- 13 Shooting star
- 14 Series for Sherman Hemsley
- 15 Mexico's dollar
- 16 Suffix for intellect or event
- 18 Two, in Spain
- 19 Assists
- 20 Threesome
- 21 "One Tree \_\_"
- 23 Gala events
- 24 Dog in "Garfield"
- 25 Tiny weight
- 26 "\_\_ a Very Good Year"; song for Frank Sinatra
- 28 Actor Calhoun
- 29 Piglets' mothers
- 30 "Dharma & \_\_"
- 32 Pigpen
- 35 Skater \_\_ Babilonia
- 36 Actor Donahue
- 37 "\_\_ Trek: Voyager"

### DOWN

- 1 "The \_\_"; John Wayne movie
- 2 "The Late \_\_ Craig Ferguson"
- 3 Abbr. following many poems
- 4 Actress Fabray, to friends
- 5 "Meet the \_\_"
- 6 One of Michael Jackson's brothers
- 7 "Ice \_\_"; blockbuster animated film
- 10 "48 \_\_"
- 11 Characteristic
- 12 "\_\_ Boys"; theme song for "Cops"
- 13 "Presidio \_\_"; Dana Delany drama series
- 15 Stack
- 17 "NCIS: \_\_ Angeles"
- 19 MacGraw and Larter
- 20 Rip
- 22 Ms. Lupino's namesakes
- 23 Kermit, for one
- 25 Dr. Meredith \_\_; Ellen Pompeo's role
- 26 Suffix for cartoon or violin
- 27 Breakfast bread, often
- 30 "\_\_ Acres"
- 31 Go bad
- 33 President William Howard and his family
- 34 Calendar periods: abbr.
- 36 Garr or Hatcher
- 37 Actor John of "Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman"
- 39 "The \_\_ Skelton Hour"
- 40 Life-saving technique, for short

Solution from 12/3

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

## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:

- 1 2
- 3 4

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

Solution from 12/3

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

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

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# TAP THE APP

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## EVENTS

### TODAY

**National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation Trivia**  
Uptown Brewing Company  
7 p.m.

**Opening Reception: PCC Sofa Club Community Art Show**  
PCC Fine Arts Gallery:  
Goess Student Center  
4:30 p.m.

**Karaoke**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
7 p.m.

### TOMORROW

**Jazz at Nino's**  
Nino's Cucina Italiana  
7 p.m.

**Jingle & Mingle Holiday Social**  
Tapped 650  
5 p.m.

**Fleet Feet Pub Run**  
Uptown Brewing Company  
6:15 p.m.

### THURSDAY

**Jingle Art Jam Fundraiser**  
Emerge Gallery  
5:30 p.m.

**Festival of Trees**  
Greenville Convention Center  
8 a.m.

**12th Annual Joyner Library School of Art and Design**  
Janice Hardison  
Faulkner Gallery  
8 a.m.

### FRIDAY

**Greenville Gives 2019**  
Five Points Plaza  
5 p.m.

**Holiday Market**  
Five Points Plaza  
5 p.m.

**Gorham's Cafe Food Truck**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
6 p.m.

### SATURDAY

**Breakfast with Santa 2019**  
Greenville Museum of Art  
9 a.m.

**The Nutcracker Ballet**  
Wright Auditorium  
2 p.m.

**Concert Choir Presents: Handel's Messiah**  
The Memorial Baptist Church  
3 p.m.

**2019 Pitt Area Chess Open**  
Sheppard Memorial Library  
9 a.m.

**Gorham's Cafe**  
MPourium  
6 p.m.

**Adobo Joe Food Truck**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
6 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY JESSICA JENKINS

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus entertains the Greenville community at the end of the annual Greenville Jaycees Christmas Parade during 2018.

## Holiday celebration returns

### The Greenville Jaycees to host annual Christmas Parade

**Devin Raines**  
TEC STAFF

The Greenville chapter of the Jaycees Civic Leadership Organization will host its annual Christmas Parade this Saturday at 5 p.m.

The parade will start at the intersection of 1st Street and Evans, it will move down Evans Street, turn left onto 5th Street, and it will come to an end at the intersection of 3rd Street and Reade Street.

This year's chair of the Christmas Parade committee and chapter member, Jessica Jenkins, has been working on organizing this parade since around April.

She said the Jaycee group itself is an international non-profit organization that volunteers for countless causes and organizations. The Christmas Parade, which first occurred over 20 years ago, is just another way that this organization gives back to the

community, according to Jenkins.

"We just saw a need in the community, and we were able to take it on from the city," Jenkins said. "I think it's important that the people in the community are able to get out of the house and to push aside the stresses of the holiday season and to fully enjoy the holiday season."

The parade itself is family friendly, and it offers free experiences from hot cocoa to seeing all of the lights and seeing Santa and his elves, according to Jenkins. The parade is a good way for the family to get out and to spend some quality time together for the holidays.

Greenville Public Information Officer for the City of Greenville, Brock Letchworth, said the parade is a way for the different organizations in Greenville to spread holiday cheer while also promoting their

businesses.

"The parade brings people together to celebrate the holiday season in a fun and festive environment. This contributes to the overall community goodwill," Letchworth said. "The parade also has the potential to provide a small boost to local businesses in the Uptown District by bringing people into the area."

Both the parade, the Greenville Cares donation and the tree lighting ceremony that will occur Friday night are great ways to kick off the holiday season, according to Letchworth. The Jaycee Christmas Parade is the community's way of giving back while also having fun.

Musical instructor at J.H. Rose High School, Helen Park, has been working with the school's marching band, Marching Rampants, for the past two years, and has par-

ticipated with the Jaycee Christmas Parade for over six years.

This parade is a chance for the high school students of J.H. Rose to experience something outside of the after school program, and it gives them a chance to become involved in the community, according to Park.

"This is just another community event that everyone can join and it's always entertaining to watch a parade," Park said. "We work really hard, and we want to do well for ourselves, the community, and the school, and represent ourselves really well."

This parade is one of the many ways that these students are able to represent the J.H. Rose Marching Rampants to the best of their abilities, and, according to Park, they beyond excel at what they do.

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

## Sound of the Seasons makes return

**Olan Bryant**  
TEC STAFF

The Choirs of The East Carolina School of Music will perform The Sound of the Seasons concert and ring in the Christmas spirit at St. Paul's Episcopal Church tonight at 7:30.

The concert, which has been a staple of the School of Music's calendar for many years will involve all four of the school's ensemble choirs: The Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, University Chorale and Collegiate Choir, according to the school's website.

The performance will feature classic Christmas carols as well as contemporary pieces that feature individual solos from certain choir members.

Senior and member of the ECU Chamber Singers, Arianna Ford, commented on what it means to perform in the show.

"It's a great way to share with the community and bring everyone together for a little bit. Each choir meets separately throughout the semester and practices, but a lot of preparation comes from our professors," Ford said.

Ford also commented on what makes the Sound of the Seasons unique from the other performances the School of Music puts on.

"We rarely do a combined concert, so that makes it very unique," Ford said. "At the end of the



COURTESY OF ROB TAYLOR

The East Carolina University Chamber Singers take the stage at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

concert, we'll have a piece where the audience is allowed to sing along with us."

The Sound of the Seasons has received positive feedback from the Greenville community due to the event being free, as well as providing a family friendly environment.

Senior, Trey McCauley, shared his thoughts on what concerts such as the Sound of the Seasons do for the community. He said the concert is one way to appreciate what music has to offer.

"Everyone needs a little more music in their lives with everything that's going on in the world right now," McCauley



Trey McCauley

said. "My voice teacher once told me that when everything seems like it's wrong, music glimpse of everything that is right in the world."

McCauley also expanded on the individual pieces that the choir looks forward to performing.

"There's this piece called 'Let all mortal flesh keep silence' by Edward Bairstow. It's my favorite and I sing a solo part in it, so that's a plus," McCauley said.

The Sound of the Seasons concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. with the final performance at 9 p.m. More information can be found on the ECU Chorus website under the events calendar.

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

## FASHION

continued from A1

The earrings and shoes are the two biggest items for this year's fall graduation it seems. This includes ties for men as well and the way women decide to style their hair, whether it's curls or a full up-do at a local salon.

Another boutique to check out Francesca's located on Red Banks Rd. The shop has a variety of dresses, blouses, and even skirts to choose from. There's also an accessory for every piece of clothing found.

Team leader at Francesca's Womens Boutique, Kimberly Morgan, said the most popular color of graduation fashion besides white for women is black.

"I'd say black would probably be the most popular option which we have in fit and flare dresses, rompers, midi dresses,

and jumpsuits," Morgan said.

The boutique has earrings, necklaces, and bracelets to pair with their clothing items, which is perfect for adding in a pop of color to a look. Earrings seem to be popular at Serendipity Boutique, but gift items are increasing in sales for Francesca's.

"We carry more grad specific gifts around summer graduation but we have such a large assortment of gifts there's always something to say 'you did it,'" Morgan said.

RSVP is still open for those who have applied to graduate on the ECU website. Students who are eligible to graduate this semester can also still apply through the Registrar's Office.

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

## WHIRLIGIG

continued from A1

Whirligig Stage, we are working with the owner to resolve a zoning concern. The city is very supportive of the arts which is demonstrated by our \$20,000 startup grant provided to the Whirligig Stage as part of the Small Business Plan Competition," The City of Greenville said in an official statement.

Executive Director for Whirligig Stage, Jason Coale, said he helped open Whirligig three years ago after they won a small business project and said he hopes the zoning issue will be resolved soon.

Coale said Whirligig submitted a detailed business plan and financial figures to the City of Greenville three years ago, with descriptions of the rentals and events they planned to do. Recently, they have received complaints from neighbors who were

"disappointed" in the events being held at the venue.

"It was our belief that the category we were zoned into was inclusive of all of these events," Coale said. "Comedy, music concerts, poetry readings, dance shows, variety shows. All of these events we feel are appropriate to be presented in a theater."

Coale said he hopes the matter is resolved soon, as refunding tickets and freezing all revenue is very dangerous for a business such as Whirligig that is "forced to live on the fringe."

As of now, all future events scheduled at Whirligig besides plays and movies have been canceled through January.

"I hope this will all be worked out quickly so that Jason and his company can get back to business and continue to bring art to Greenville," Gerney said.

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